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## MAY 2025 ISSUE

*Special faculty & student awards edition*

## WELCOME TO THE A&S NEWSLETTER

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

***Dear Arts & Sciences community,***

As we wrap up spring term, we want to thank you for your hard work and dedication throughout the academic year.

[The College is currently gathering input as part of a review and reflection process for the Dean's Office.](#) Your anonymous responses will help guide leadership decisions and the College's future direction.

During February's Open Forums, many faculty shared concerns about student well-being. We heard you and responded by launching the new Pack's Got Your Back initiative and sharing the Dean's first direct video message to A&S majors—offering encouragement and emphasizing that the value of their UNM education.

We're grateful for your commitment to our students and for the conversations that strengthen our College community.

### **Professor Emerita Joan Bybee Elected to AAAS**

**Distinguished Professor Emerita Joan Bybee** (Linguistics) has been elected to the American Academy of Arts & Sciences, one of academia's highest honors.

The Academy recognized Bybee's 35-year career advancing understanding of language evolution, including her groundbreaking work on usage-based linguistics and cognitive grammar.

[Bybee will be inducted this fall at the Academy's ceremony in Cambridge, Mass.](#)





## New Inclusive Excellence Postdoctoral and Visiting Scholars Announced

Congratulations to the 2025 [Inclusive Excellence Postdoctoral and Visiting Scholars](#)! We're excited to welcome you and look forward to supporting your work in the year ahead.

### **Anna Le**

*Ph.D. in French & Francophone Studies,*  
University of Notre Dame  
Nominating department: Languages,  
Cultures, & Literatures

### **Fernando Machado-Stredel**

*Ph.D. in Ecology & Evolutionary Biology,*  
University of Kansas  
Nominating department: Biology

### **Amaury J. Rigo Sánchez**

*Ph.D. Candidate in Sociology,* University of  
Illinois, Urbana-Champaign  
Nominating department: Sociology

### **Carmella Scorgia Pacheco**

*Ph.D. in Spanish,* University of Arizona  
Nominating department: Spanish &  
Portuguese

Thank you for reading. **A&S Dean's Office Staff**



## GOOD NEWS & UPDATES



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

UNM Center for Southwest Research received new archival donations celebrating **Rev. Charles Becknell Sr.** and **Dr. Harold Bailey**, honoring their contributions to Africana Studies, civil rights, and public service in New Mexico. [Read more](#)

**Regents Professor Elizabeth Quay Hutchison** (History) has been named an American Council on Education (ACE) Fellow. [Read more](#)

**Professor Chip Shearer** (Institute of Meteoritics, Earth & Planetary Sciences) received the



2025 UNM Globally-Engaged Research Award for his leadership in global partnerships and high-profile research in space exploration.

Congratulations!

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

**Professor Ronda Brulotte** (Anthropology) published new work on the Mezcal industry in Oaxaca. □ [Learn more](#)

**Adjunct Professor Matt Schmader** (Anthropology) released [Uncovering America's First War: Coronado's Expedition to the Rio Grande](#) with UNM Press. □ [Read more](#)

**Economics Professors Benjamin A. Jones, Andrew L. Goodkind, and Robert P. Berrens** published [Energy Use in Bitcoin Mining: The Environmental Impact of Cryptocurrencies](#), analyzing the ecological costs of Bitcoin mining. □ [Read more](#)

**Professor Jessica Carey-Webb** (Spanish & Portuguese) published an article on ecopedagogy and the Brazilian drama *Aruanas*. □ [Read the article](#)

### *In related news*

**Distinguished Professor Lisa Broidy** (Sociology) will be honored as a 2025 Fellow of the American Society of Criminology at the ASC Annual Meeting this November. The distinction, one of the field's highest honors, recognizes Broidy's contributions to scholarship, commitment to diversity and inclusion, and mentorship of future criminologists.

**Professor Kiwoong Park** (Sociology) and colleagues received [UNM Grand Challenges](#) Level 1 funding for their project Safer Streets, which focuses on innovative approaches to urban safety.

**Distinguished Alumna Mary Stiner** (Anthropology) was elected to the National Academy of Sciences for her work in zooarchaeology and human evolution.

**Graduate student Bianca Ruiz-Negron** (Sociology) was awarded the 2025–26 Crossing Latinidades Mellon Fellowship and will also participate in the Crossing Latinidades Summer Institute.

**Retiring Professor Alok Bohara** (Economics) established the **Dr. Alok Bohara Graduate Research Excellence Award**, supporting graduate students who publish in peer-reviewed journals. Congratulations on your retirement and many thanks for your generosity. □ [Learn more or contribute](#)

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

I'm excited to highlight some major new research awards from across our departments.

- **Matthew Hurteau** (Biology)—U.S. Forest Service, \$350,000 for *Wildlife Monitoring to Inform Hazardous Fuels Reduction in the Wildland-Urban*







Interface on U.S. National Forests

- **Terry Loring** (Mathematics & Statistics)—Army Research Office, \$392,516 for *Quantifiable Topological Protection for Quantum Materials*

- **Jennifer Rudgers** (Biology)—National Science Foundation, \$706,641 for collaborative research on the *Integration of Plant-Soil Feedbacks with Resilience Theory for Piñon Woodlands Under Drought*
- **Seidel Group** (Physics & Astronomy) —Breakthrough Prize in Fundamental Physics, \$3 million, awarded as part of the ATLAS Collaboration at CERN; reflects UNM's global impact in high-energy physics research

Congratulations to all on this outstanding success advancing cutting-edge research!

### *In Related News*

UNM scientists are leading research in the [Transformation Network](#), an initiative that studies climate resilience and water challenges in the Western United States. □ [Read more](#)

Three UNM students were named Goldwater Scholars for excellence in STEM. □ [Full story](#)

### Research & Graduate Studies: **Sharon Nepstad**

□ Congratulations to the 2025–26 ASSURE Fellows!

- **Ari Bair**, Geography & Environmental Studies  
*Project title:* Evolving Strategies for Changing Disasters  
Mentor: Yolanda Lin
- **Ashley Beard**, American Sign Language  
*Project title:* Parameter Analysis of ASL Name Sign Systems in Côte d'Ivoire and the United States  
Mentor: Erin Wilkinson
- **Andrew Bride**, Economics  
*Project title:* New Mexico Project for Equity and Inclusion in Housing  
Mentor: Agustin Leon-Moreta
- **Madrid Castillo**, Linguistics  
*Project title:* Exploring Motion Events in an Amazonian Language  
Mentor: Rosa Vallejos-Yopán
- **Christiana Eirene Concepcion**,



- **Ariana Moran**, Speech & Hearing Sciences  
*Project title:* Documenting Cross-Language Generalization of Speech Sounds in Bilingual Children  
Mentor: Carlos Perez-Irizarry
- **Maria Pedroza Santos**, Economics  
*Project title:* Invisible Labor, Indispensable Economy: Rethinking Informal Employment in Latin



Biology  
*Project title:* SIRT1's Impact on Mitochondrial Calcium Signaling in Hair Cells of Danio rerio  
Mentor: Andrea McQuate

- **Haley Diaz**, Chemistry & Chemical Biology  
*Project title:* Discovery of GLUT5 Inhibitors Targeting the Outward-Facing Conformation Through In Silico Ligand Screening and In Vivo Validation in Eukaryotic Expression Systems  
Mentor: Jun-Yong Choe
- **Jasreet Dhillon**, Biochemistry  
*Project title:* LCS Secondary Proposal  
Mentor: Lomeli Shull
- **Sofia Doke**, Speech & Hearing Sciences  
*Project title:* Building a Pathway to Understanding Management of Swallowing Disorders  
Mentor: Phyllis Palmer
- **Manuel Gomez**, Anthropology  
*Project title:* Isolated or Connected? Reassessing Gallina Settlement Clusters in Northwestern New Mexico  
Mentor: Michael Graves
- **Juliet Knouse**, Chemistry & Chemical Biology  
*Project title:* Modeling Magneto-Optical Properties of Porphyrin Systems with Rhenium Complexes  
Mentor: Jeffrey Rack
- **Elaine Mitchell**, Linguistics  
*Project title:* English Vowel Variation in Albuquerque, N.M.  
Mentor: Chris Koops
- **Isabella O'Donnell-Silfverberg**, Anthropology  
*Project title:* Farming in the Gallina Area: Exploring Varied Agricultural Strategies in a High-Elevation Environment  
Mentor: Michael Graves

America  
Mentor: Manuel Montoya

- **Muhammed Saeed**, Biochemistry  
*Project title:* Bridging Phases: Translational Architecture of Metalloporphyrin Magneto-Optical Properties in Thin Film Arrays  
Mentor: Jeffrey Rack
- **David Salazar Reyes**, Chemistry & Chemical Biology  
*Project title:* Photothermal Effects on Soft Materials  
Mentor: Terefe Habteyes
- **Carl Sanfilipo**, Geography & Anthropology  
*Project title:* Wild Horse Habitat Modeling for Climate-Resilient Management  
Mentor: Chris Lippitt
- **Olivia Stinson**, Linguistics  
*Project title:* "This one? Yes, that one:" Spanish-English Bilinguals' Use of Demonstratives to Confirm Understanding  
Mentor: Naomi Shin
- **Audrey Vanderhee**, Biology  
*Project title:* Genomic Insights Into Shrew Diversity and Phylogenetics of *Sorex merriami*  
Mentor: Joseph Cook
- **Kelly Welch**, Chemistry & Chemical Biology  
*Project title:* Thermodynamic Framework to Predict the Formation and Stability of Biological Condensates  
Mentor: Anisha Shakya

*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](mailto:awards@unm.edu) and CC **Sharon Nepstad** ([nepstad@unm.edu](mailto:nepstad@unm.edu))



## Student Success: **Sushilla Knottenbelt**

[Over 1,000 A&S undergraduates are on track to graduate this spring.](#)

*As we celebrate their achievements, we extend deep gratitude to the staff and faculty whose support has guided students to this milestone.*

## 2025 Marshall Award Recipients

Three faculty members have been recognized with the prestigious Marshall Award for innovative course design:

- **Kimran Buckholz** (Biology): Expanding BIOL 455/555 Ethology with enriched fieldwork and zoo-based service learning.
- **Jessica Carey-Webb** (Spanish & Portuguese): Launching Environmental Brazil (PORT 2211), a new course on climate justice, deforestation, and Indigenous activism.
- **Dawn Nordquist** (Linguistics): Developing LING 445, where students apply linguistic theory to advertising and build real-world skills.

☐ Congratulations to these faculty for creating inspiring, real-world learning experiences!

If you're teaching this summer, please remind your students that [CTL](#) is offering expanded tutoring in writing and STEM from June 2 to July 26.

## Summer 2025 CTL Tutoring (June 2–July 26)

### *In-person STEM tutoring*

#### Subjects

- Math (up to Calculus III)
- Physics I & II
- Statistics
- General and organic chemistry
- Biology

☐ Third floor, Zimmerman Library

☐ Mon–Thu, 11 a.m.–4 p.m.

### *Online STEM tutoring*

☐ Request via [Kellen Paine](#)

### *Graduate student tutoring (writing and statistics)*

- ☐ In-person or online
- ☐ Mon–Friday (by appointment only)
- ☐ Email [CTL Graduate Support](#) to schedule

## Looking ahead: Reimagining your syllabus for fall

When you're ready to work on fall classes, consider these resources to increase student belonging and success and to align your syllabus with your teaching values.

- [Self and Syllabus: Aligning Syllabus Language and Teaching Identity](#)



- [Who Is Your Syllabus For? Streamlining Overburdened Syllabi](#)
- [Syllabus Checklist for Student Belonging and Achievement](#)
- [AI Syllabus Language and Resources](#)

We hope you enjoy a restorative summer

## Arts & Sciences Staff News

Welcome to the College, Tuba and Rigo!



**Zoarder Tuba**, Accountant 2, Dean's Office

Zoarder Tuba holds a Master's degree in Management Information Systems from Lamar University and a Bachelor's degree in Accounting.

Outside of work, she enjoys painting, reading, and hiking—activities that fuel her creativity and curiosity.

Tuba currently works as an Accountant II at the University of New Mexico in the College of Arts & Sciences Dean's Office, where she supports budget management and reconciliation with accuracy and dedication.



**Rigo Talavera**, Accountant 2, Dean's Office

Rigo earned his bachelor's in business management with a concentration in Finance from UNM.

Rigo started working at UNM on the Student Accounts Receivable side, where he was also an accountant.

He is excited to continue to contribute to UNM's success in a new capacity. He looks forward to learning from his new team and contributing to the overall success of the College of Arts & Sciences.

## Arts & Sciences Student Honors & Research

### 2025 A&S Claude Outstanding Senior Award Winners

- **Monice Aguilar** (Biology Pre-Med)
- **Alison Carrell** (Strategic Communication)
- **Kaelyn Moon** (Sociology)
- **Makayla Otero** (Political Science & Psychology)
- **Anthony Rice** (History & Political Science)

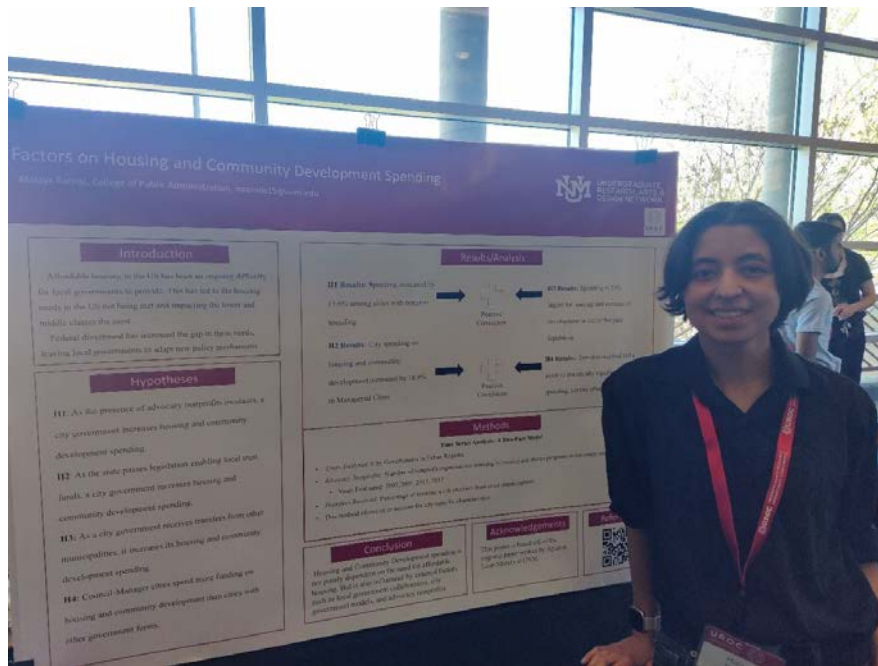
☐ Congratulations to all! [Next year's nominations will open in January.](#)

### ASSURE Fellows Present at UROC

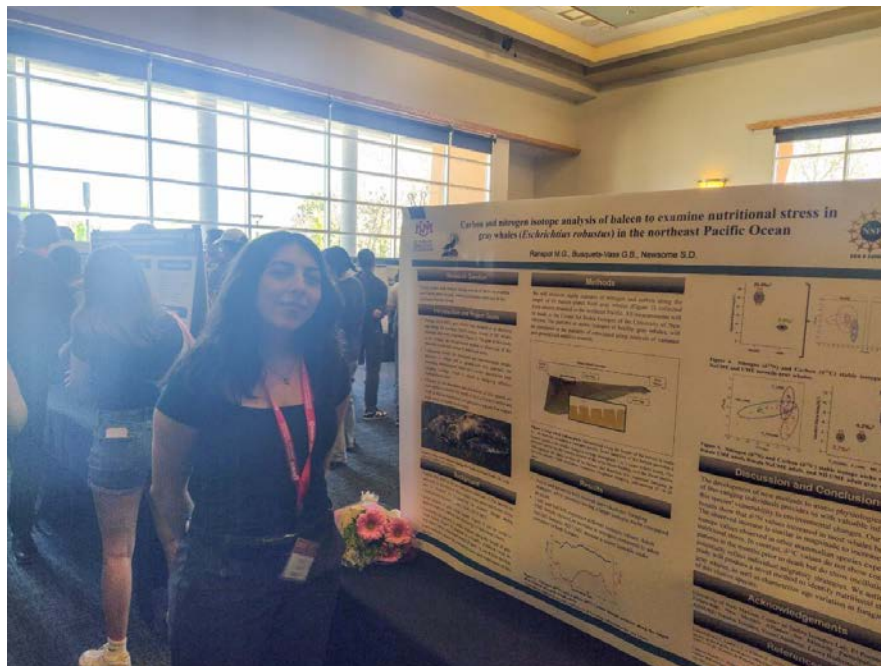
**Malaya Ramos, Mikayla Ranspot, and Hannah Bradley** presented their research at this



year's Undergraduate Conference (UROC), showcasing innovative projects supported by the [Arts & Sciences Support for Undergraduate Research Experience \(ASSURE\)](#) program.



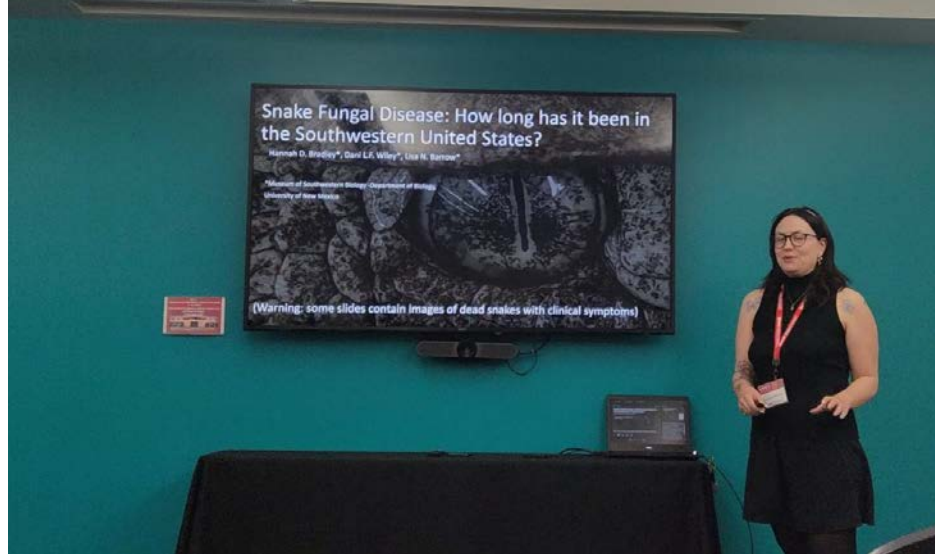
**Malaya Ramos** (School of Public Administration), mentored by Professor Agustin Leon-Moreta, shared the project, "[Factors on Housing and Community Development Spending](#)," examining how public investments influence community wellbeing.



**Mikayla Ranspot** (Biology), mentored by Professor Seth Newsome, shared "[Assessing the Nutritional Stress of Gray Whales in Response to Mortality Events](#)." A four-year research veteran and [El Puente fellow](#), Mikayla began her work with the [Center for Stable Isotopes \(CSI\)](#) while in high school.

Ranspot credited the ASSURE fellowship's support with giving her time to focus and work in the lab: "I love being able to do this at UNM." Her findings will be published this June and shared with NOAA.





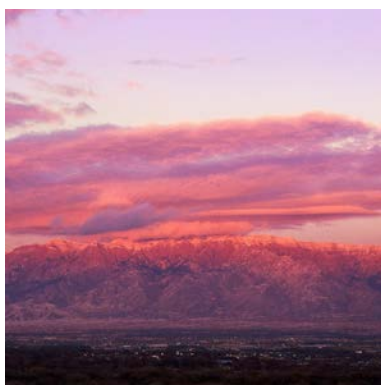
**Hannah Bradley** (Biology), mentored by Professor Lisa Barrow, presented “[Snake Fungal Disease: How Long Has It Been in the Southwestern United States?](#)” Hannah’s research has already led to new protocols at the Museum of Southwestern Biology for preserving snake specimens and identifying fungal disease going forward.

□ Congratulations to all UROC presenters and thank you to their mentors and faculty for their support.

### **Anna Cao Awarded 2025 Mummert Research Fellowship**

Economics major **Anna Cao** has been selected for the 2025 [Ryan and Brandi Mummert Research Fellowship](#).

She will research water conservation perspectives among Rio Grande Valley farmers under **Professor Jingjing Wang** (Economics).



## **A&S IN THE UNM NEWSROOM**

- UNM strengthens partnership with NRAO on Next Generation Very Large Array (ngVLA) project
- Curanderismo summer program opens for registration
- Phi Beta Kappa welcomes new UNM
- Students blend storytelling and science at water and climate initiative
- UNM Libraries honors five undergraduate A&S students with 2025 undergraduate research



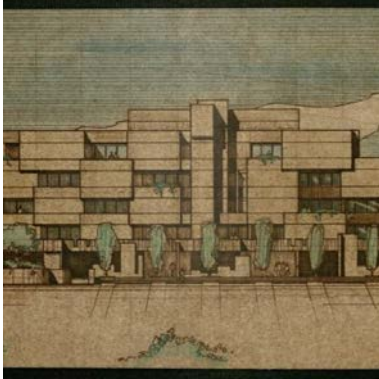
- members
- UNM students part of local news fellowship cohort

awardee

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

### [Algorithm Matchmaker: Online Dating Leads to More Diverse Couples](#)

This episode with **Professor Reuben Thomas** (Sociology) explores how dating apps contribute to more cross-demographic relationships.



## HUMANITIES PROJECT UPDATES

### Humanities Project Timeline

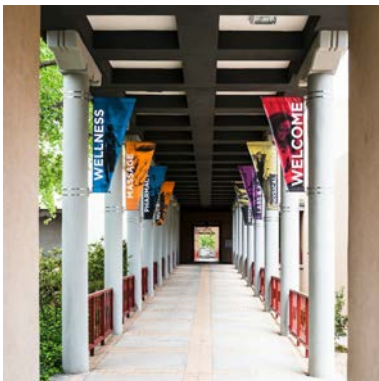
Jan. 2025: Building vacated

Spring 2025: Abatement begins

Summer 2025: Demolition 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



## IMPORTANT UPDATES FROM THE COLLEGE IT OFFICER

### Mandatory Windows 11 Upgrade Begins

Microsoft will end support for Windows 10 in October. *To maintain security, all UNM devices must upgrade to Windows 11.*



- Instructions for manual updates will be shared soon.
- Automatic updates will begin after grades are due, pushed weekly to campus-connected machines.
- Chairs, Directors, and DAs will receive further details.

□ If you use specialized software that may be impacted, please submit a ticket at [help.unm.edu](https://help.unm.edu) ASAP so IT can assist.

### Software Purchases & Security Reviews

[UNM's Acceptable Computer Use policy \(2500\)](#) has been updated. Now, all non-enterprise software (including free/open-source) must complete a security review (PIAQ) before purchase or installation—even if you have admin rights.

We're working with Information Security to streamline approvals and fast-track common apps. Stay tuned for an upcoming presentation to help clarify the process.

Thanks for your patience as we strengthen protections around UNM data and systems.



## THE COLLEGE'S 2024–25 STRATEGIC PLAN

Stop by the Dean's Office for a hard copy of the College's strategic plan or view online via the link below. Thanks to all who contributed!

[READ THE STRATEGIC PLAN](#)

## SHARE YOUR NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

We want to hear from you! Share news, awards, accolades, and events for an upcoming newsletter.

[SHARE YOUR NEWS](#)

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