



COLLEGE OF
ARTS & SCIENCES
OFFICE OF THE DEAN

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WELCOME TO THE A&S NEWSLETTER



NOVEMBER 2025
ISSUE

Dear Arts & Sciences community,

As we approach the Thanksgiving holiday, we hope you find time to rest and reconnect.

This month's newsletter highlights recent accomplishments from across the College, along with upcoming opportunities to gather and engage with one another..

–A&S Dean's Office Staff

Nominate a Colleague for the College's New Staff & Student Employee Awards

A&S is launching new awards recognizing staff and student-employee excellence in leadership and innovation, service and collaboration, wellness, and student employee service. Recipients will be honored at the Spring College Celebration.

All full-time staff and all student employees are eligible. Self-nominations welcome.

Submit a nomination:

- [Leadership and Innovation Award](#)
- [Service and Collaboration Award](#)
- [Wellness Champion Award](#)
- [Student Employee Service Excellence Award](#)

Nominations due: 11:59 p.m., Monday, December 1

Don't Miss the Last Monthly Mingle of 2025

Join us for our final College Mingle on Thursday, December 4, at noon in the UAEC Building, Room 135, hosted by the A&S Center for Academic Success. *Lunch is on us, with vegetarian and gluten-free options available.*



GOOD NEWS & UPDATES

2025 Ovation Awards

Congratulations to the College's 2025 UNM Ovation recipients:

- **Associate Professor Laura Belmonte** (Chicana & Chicano Studies)
- **Professor Brady Horn** (Economics)

The UNM Ovation Awards recognize faculty for recent accomplishments with exceptional scholarly or creative impact at the local, national, or international level. [View all Ovation award winners.](#)

Anthropology Research Sheds New Light on the Bird Behind the Holiday

[Anthropology student Caitlin Ainsworth and recent alumni Scott Kirk \(Ph.D. 2021\) and Cyler Conrad \(Ph.D. 2018\)](#) are featured in a new volume published by the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle in Paris.

Exploring the History of Turkey Management and Domestication: A Transatlantic Perspective traces the iconic bird's journey from ancient North American domestication through its global spread, revealing how turkeys became central to festive traditions worldwide.



NEWS FROM A&S RESEARCH SUPPORT SERVICES

Strengthening A&S Research: Strategic Plan Now Available

Research Support Services has completed its strategic plan, providing a guiding framework for strengthening faculty research support across A&S.

View the full plan by clicking the cover below.

The College of Arts & Sciences Research Support Services Strategic Plan



Fellowship Policy Update

The College has updated its guidelines for faculty pursuing external fellowships.

If you're planning to apply, [please review the full policy](#), but here are the two big takeaways:

- ✓ Talk with your chair before applying.
Fellowships affect teaching schedules and workload planning, so early conversation with your unit is now required.
- ✓ Fellowships must be spaced out.

Faculty should have two years of regular duties between fellowships, and they generally cannot be taken directly before or after a sabbatical

National Center for Faculty Development (NCFDD) Faculty Success Program Scholarships Available

UNM's Division for Change and Empowerment (DiCE) is offering \$2,125 scholarships for tenure-stream faculty to participate in the 12-week NCFDD Faculty Success Program—an intensive accountability- and coaching-based program designed to boost research productivity and support work-life balance.

Deadlines:

- February 20, 2026 for Summer 2026 ([Apply for Summer](#))
- May 4, 2026 for Fall 2026 or Spring 2027 ([Apply for Fall or Spring](#))

[View NCFDD Program Details](#)

Newly Funded Projects

Natural Sciences & Environmental Research

- **Yemane Asmerom** (Earth & Planetary Sciences)—Collaborative Research: The Drivers of Regionally Coherent Meridional Variability Across the Australian and Asian Monsoons. Sponsor: National Science Foundation.
- **Jehanzeb Chaudhary** (Mathematics & Statistics) —Error Estimation in Quasi-Meshfree Methods. Sponsor: National Technology & Engineering Solutions of Sandia

LLC.

- **Kim Eichhorst** (Biology)—Time to Restore: Developing People-Driven Tools for Climate-Smart Restoration. Sponsor: University of Oklahoma.
- **Russell Greaves** (Anthropology)—CP-CESU Class III Cultural Resources Survey: Virtual Fence, Valle Toledo Trail, Jemez Springs Parcels. Sponsor: National Park Service.
- **Matthew Hurteau** (Geography & Environmental Studies)—Design, Development and Delivery of Wildland Firefighting Training. Sponsor: Forest Service.
- **Martina Laidemitt** (Biology)—Has the Snail Vector of *Schistosoma mansoni* Been Eliminated From Puerto Rico? Sponsor: Pan American Health Organization.
- **David Lightfoot** (Biology/Museum of Southwestern Biology)—Current Status of New Mexico Pollinators. Sponsor: New Mexico Department of Agriculture.
- **Shawn Penman** (EDAC; Geography & Environmental Studies)—Piloting Resource Strategies To Increase Wildfire Preparedness, Resilience, and Response. Sponsor: Forest Service.
- **Marisa Repasch** (Earth & Planetary Sciences)—Geologic Map of the San Ysidro Quadrangle, New Mexico. Sponsor: Department of Interior.
- **Thomas Turner** (Biology)—Joint Venture Agreement. Sponsor: Forest Service.
- **David Van Horn** (Biology)—Assessing Water Quality Trends and Suspended Sediment Surrogates Using High-Frequency Sensors in New Mexico and Southern Colorado. Army Corps of Engineers.

Social Sciences, Public Policy, & Evaluation

- **Dana Bell** (Cradle to Career Policy Institute)—Research and Evaluation for the National Dance Institute. Sponsor: National Dance Institute of New Mexico.
- **Audrey Cooper** (MPP)—Violence Intervention Program Fund Evaluation Project. Sponsor: New Mexico Department of Health.
- **Gabriel Sanchez** (Political Science)—Research With Residents of San Juan/Permian Basin. Sponsor: New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions.
- **Alexander Severson** (Institute for Social Research)—New Mexico Corrections Department General Research Tasks—FY 2026. Sponsor: New Mexico Corrections Department.

Health, Behavioral, & Life Sciences

- **Reagan Fitzke** (Psychology)—An Investigation and Application of Alcohol and Cannabis Co-Use Protective Behavioral Strategies in the Context of Sexual Assault Prevention Among College Females. Sponsor: National Institutes of Health.
- **Emily Jones** (Anthropology)—Doctoral Dissertation Research: Assessing Support for Human-Caused Extinction of Pleistocene Horses in the Radiocarbon Record. Sponsor: National Science Foundation.
- **Megan Jane Osborne** (Biology)—Genetic Monitoring and Management of Native Fish Populations. Sponsor: Bureau of Reclamation.
- **Si-Ming Zhang** (Biology)—Genetics and Genomics of Schistosome Resistance in Snails. Sponsor: National Institutes of Health.



NEWS FROM THE ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR STUDENT SUCCESS

As we head into the final stretch of the semester, here are a few highlights and opportunities that continue to strengthen our community's support for student learning, wellbeing, and success.

GRO Funding Success

We're excited to share that two A&S proposals received new GRO funding this cycle:

- "At Risk to At Promise" (Marlene Sanchez) will expand early support for first-year students through a peer ambassador program and enhance academic probation processes to improve third-semester retention.
- "Reflect, Connect, Retain," a collaboration between CTL and A&S, will foster instructor community and reflective practice centered on student success.

LoboBITES Winners

Congratulations to our [A&S LoboBITES awardees](#):

- 1st Place: Gabriela Guardardo (Chicana & Chicano Studies)
- 2nd Place: Oona Takano (Biology)
- Audience Choice: Benjamin Garcia (Biology)

A&S finalists also included Amanda Cipolla (Psychology), Jessica Nico (Speech & Hearing Sciences), Alexander Connolly (Psychology), and Avery Armstrong (English Language & Literature).

Student Well-Being Survey Results

UNM's latest well-being survey shows overall scores consistent with national peers, but highlights lower wellbeing among students with disabilities, transgender/gender-nonconforming students, and queer-spectrum students. Parenting students reported the strongest well-being indicators, while 35% of all students worry often or very often about paying for educational expenses.

[Read the 2025 Student Well-Being report.](#)

Join the Spring Teaching Squares Program

A new pilot from CTL and A&S, funded through GRO, brings together four instructors to observe one another's teaching—not to critique, but to reflect and grow.

- Time Commitment: ~10 hours over the semester
- Stipend: \$1,000 upon completion
- [Sign up by December 15](#)

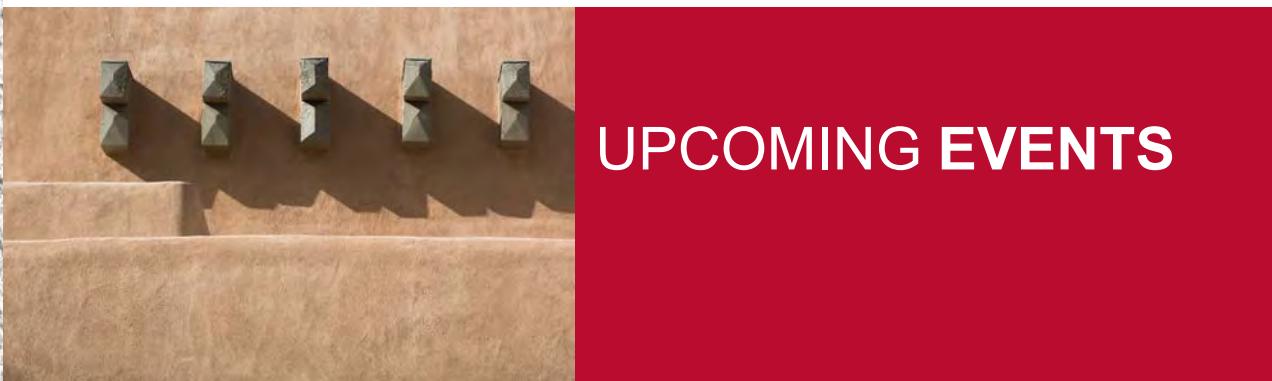
[Review Teaching Squares program details.](#)

Advisement Workshop: Demystifying the Undergrad Degree

A concise overview of core curriculum, major/minor requirements, and key policies affecting degree progress.

- Date: Thursday, November 20
- Time: 10:00–11:45 a.m.
- Location: Center for Academic Success (UAEC)

[Register to attend.](#)



Alum Volya Kapatsinski (Linguistics) Returns to UNM for Colloquium & Alumni Celebration

Professor Kapatsinski (MA '05) returns to his alma mater to present a colloquium on his NSF-funded research, Goals and context in language production. Currently Professor and Chair of Linguistics at the University of Oregon, Kapatsinski's work spans usage-based linguistics, learning theory, and language change, including his award-winning monograph *Changing Minds, Changing Tools*.

- Date: Thursday, November 21
- Time: 3:00–4:30 p.m.
- Location: Mitchell Hall 102
- Post-Event: Alumni Celebration at the UNM Faculty Club



A&S IN THE NEWS

Institute for Medieval Studies (IMS) Hosts Third Annual Medieval Faire



UNM and Department News Stories

- [UNM MFA Alum Awarded Postdoctoral Fellowship at the Center for Regional Studies](#)
- [Regents Professor Maggie Werner-Washburne \(Biology\) Receives 2025 ASCB Honorable Award](#)
- [Earth Data Analysis Center \(EDAC\) Signs Contract With Navajo Nation](#)
- [Associate Professor Sarah Hernandez \(English; IFAIR\) Receives Henry Luce Foundation Grant for Groundbreaking Anthology](#)
- [Physics & Astronomy Alum Kathrin Spendier Profiled for Work in Quantum Technology](#)
- [Associate Dean Peter Fawcett Contributes to NSF-Funded Project Transforming STEM Curriculum Into More Accessible Gateways](#)
- [Native American Studies Ph.D. Candidate Presents at LoboBites](#)
- [Linguistics Alum Contributes to Navajo Language Preservation](#)
- [Research Professor Mark Boslough \(Earth & Planetary Sciences\) Leads Research Suggests Fireball Events](#)
- [Africana Studies Asks Community to Share Their Stories](#)
- [Biology Researchers Reveal How Dust Bowl-Type Drought Drives Unprecedented Ecosystem Productivity Loss](#)
- [Public Archaeology Grad Student Wins Prestigious Smithsonian Institution Fellowship](#)
- [Professor Emily Jones \(Anthropology\) Explores the Line Between Scientific Fact and Fiction in New Novel](#)
- [Economics Students Break New Ground at Center for Water and the Environment \(CWE\) Mini-Conference](#)
- [Chemistry Alum Dave Chandler Named 2025 Herschbach Medal Winner](#)
- [UNM Celebrates Native American Heritage Month](#)
- [Biology Graduate Student Sarah Shrum Davis Collaborates With ABQ Zoo on Shigella Outbreak](#)
- [Institute for Medieval Studies hosts](#)

[Could Signal Elevated Risk of Cosmic Impact or Airburst in 2032 and 2036](#)

- [Distinguished Professor Zachary Sharp \(Biology\) Led Study Using Ancient Plant Fossils to Decode Earth's Climate History](#)

[3rd annual Medieval Faire on Halloween](#)

- [CASAA Research Day Aims to Connect Research and Community](#)
- [Professor Les Field \(Anthropology\) Awarded Snead Wertheim Endowed Lectureship](#)

“It’s Probably Not Rocket Science” Features UNM Research on Sports Betting and Binge Drinking



The November podcast episode highlights new insights from Associate Professor Joshua Grubbs (Psychology) on the rising risks of sports betting and its connection to binge drinking, examining how shifting policies and cultural trends impact student well-being.

FACULTY NEWS

Dr. Daphne Littlebear Featured at Indigenous Evaluators Network Symposium

Dr. Daphne Littlebear (Santa Ana Pueblo, Yuchi, Mvskoke, Shawnee), Assistant Professor of Native American Studies, presented "Relational Pathways: Indigenizing Evaluation in Pueblo Pedagogies" at the inaugural Indigenous Evaluators Network Symposium at Laguna Pueblo. Her work examines evaluation grounded in Pueblo values, governance, and relational accountability.

Kate Cartwright Concludes APHA Leadership Role & Presents Collaborative Research

Kate Cartwright completed her term as Chair of the Health Administration Section of the American Public Health Association at its 2025 Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C. She presented collaborative research with BA/MD alumni Maria Gabaldon-Parish ('23) and Haley Hughes ('24) on New Mexico's rural healthcare workforce, and with MHA student Amos Hayes on medical malpractice reform.

Rosa Vallejos-Yopán Publishes New Work on Kukama-Kukamiria Coreference

Elizabeth Pérez-Chiqués Presents at Mexican Congress & Receives SEHCITI Funding

Elizabeth Pérez-Chiqués (Visiting Assistant Professor, SPA) delivered an invited presentation at the Building a Public Administration for a New Era Forum at the Chamber of Deputies of Mexico. She also received SEHCITI funding for research on institutional capacities for ethical and effective AI implementation in Mexico's health and justice sectors.

Diné Language & Wellbeing PhotoVoice Study

Tiffany S. Lee (Distinguished Professor, NAS), Wendy S. Greyeyes (Associate Professor, NAS), Melvatha Chee (Associate Professor, Linguistics), Chenoa Bah Stilwell-Jensen (College of Health Sciences), and James McKenzie are leading a community-engaged study on how exposure to Diné Bizaad supports Diné youth wellbeing. The team is partnering with five educational organizations and using PhotoVoice, interviews, and Diné-based protocols grounded in *k’é* to explore language and identity from early childhood through young adulthood.

Professor Rosa Vallejos-Yopán (Linguistics) has published a new paper examining coreference relations in complex clauses in Kukama-Kukamiria, contributing to broader understanding of Amazonian Indigenous languages. The chapter appears in the University of Sonora's new open-access volume *Relaciones simétricas y asimétricas*.

UNM's Presidential Search Seeking Feedback

Share your thoughts with the Board of Regents, who are conducting the search for UNM's 24th President, at the link below.

[Share Your Input](#)

Fall 2025/Spring 2025 Newsletter Deadlines

- December: Submit by Wednesday, December 3; published Wednesday, December 10. *Early deadline for Winter Break: please note the updated submission date.*
- February: Submit by Wednesday, January 28; published Wednesday, February 4.

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