



COLLEGE OF
ARTS & SCIENCES
OFFICE OF THE DEAN

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DECEMBER 2025 ISSUE

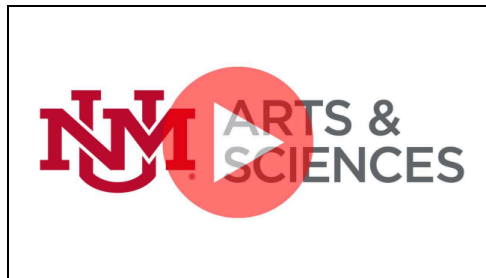
Dear Arts & Sciences community,

We hope the transition from this year into the next offers time for reflection and rejuvenation.

Our final newsletter for 2025 showcases accomplishments from across the College, along with opportunities in the new year to reconnect with friends and colleagues at A&S.

—A&S Dean's Office Staff

Watch the College's 10 Wins of 2025 Video Below



Spring 2026 College Events: Save the Dates

- College Celebration: February 18
- Spring Town Hall: April 15
- Monthly Mingles: First Thursdays at noon (Feb 5, March 5, April 2, May 7). Full lunch served, with vegetarian and gluten-free options. *February and March Mingles will be in UAEC 137.*



GOOD NEWS & UPDATES



We are pleased to welcome **Rachel Jump** to the Dean's Office as our new **Marketing Representative**!

For the last four years, Rachel was the Administrative Assistant to the Dean at the School of Architecture + Planning. She has also worked in the capacities of marketing and communications at The Art Institute of Chicago, Mana Contemporary, and Filter Photo.

Rachel is an artist and is currently pursuing their MFA at the College of Fine Arts. She was a nominee for this year's Gerald W. May Outstanding Staff Award.

NEWS FROM A&S RESEARCH SUPPORT SERVICES

NSF CAREER Grant Applicant Cohort

Planning to apply for an NSF CAREER grant in July 2026? Join a spring cohort of early-career faculty for structured training, peer feedback, and collaborative support as you develop your proposal.

Registration is capped at 20 participants. [Learn more and register here](#) or contact frdo@unm.edu with questions.

Newly Funded Projects

- **Alexander Albrecht** (Physics & Astronomy)—Intra-Cavity-Pumped Semiconductor Disk Laser. Sponsor: UNM Rainforest Innovations.
- **Kim Eichhorst** (Biology)—Los Lunas River Mile 163 River Maintenance. Sponsor: Bureau of Reclamation.
- **Russell D. Greaves** (Office Of Contract Archeology)—Montezuma Village Eroding Kivas and Hedley Pueblo Complex Survey. Sponsor: The Archaeological Conservancy.
- **Yi He** (Chemistry)—Molecular Dynamics of Pathogen Structure in Aerosol Environments to Understand Viral Inactivation. Sponsor: National Technology &

Engineering Solutions of Sandia LLC.

- **Marcy E. Litvak** (Biology)—The Role Forest Structure Plays in Regulating Water Availability and Implications for Natural Resources and Ecosystem Function. Sponsor: University of Oklahoma.
- **Esteban H. Muldavin** (Biology)—Rare Arthropod Action Plan. Sponsor: Carroll Petrie Foundation. Gunnison's Prairie Dog Surveys 2025. Sponsor: New Mexico Game & Fish Department. NM SLO Pilot Project for High-Resolution CHAT. Sponsor: New Mexico State Land Office.
- **Melissa Emery Thompson** (Anthropology)—Transition Application: Novel Frameworks for Explaining Unequal Access to the Health Benefits of Social Ties: A Longitudinal Analysis in Wild Chimpanzees. Sponsor: National Institute of Aging.
- **Yuting Yang** (Economics)—Service Contract. Sponsor: New Mexico Department of Transportation.



NEWS FROM THE ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR STUDENT SUCCESS

Upcoming CTL Workshops: Make Your Course Materials More Accessible

Starting in April 2026, all digital course materials need to meet accessibility standards to ensure students using screen readers and other assistive technologies can fully engage with coursework.

The Center for Teaching and Learning is [offering workshops](#) and online courses to help faculty prepare materials and develop inclusive teaching practices.

Spring Workshops

- Improving File Accessibility in Canvas—[January 12, 11 AM on Zoom](#)
- Course Design Institute—[January 13, 9 AM–3 PM \(CTLB Room 110\)](#)
- Enhancing Your Inclusive Teaching—[January 15, 1–2 PM on Zoom](#)
- Design Justice Matters: Inclusive and Participatory Strategies for Online Learning – [February 5, 11 AM on Zoom](#)

Three-Week Online Course (multiple start dates)

- Charting a Path to Accessible Digital Content—[Starting January 26, February 23, March 23, or April 20](#)

Join Pedagogical Wellbeing Community of Practice This Spring

Presidential Teaching Fellow Dr. Leola Tsinnajinnie Paquin (Native American Studies) is facilitating a spring Community of Practice exploring wellbeing as foundational to teaching and learning. The group will examine how conceptions of wellbeing inform curriculum design, teaching practices, and policies, and how these approaches can foster transformative learning for both students and educators.

The group meets monthly from 1–3 PM with three virtual sessions (January 28, March 25, April 29) and one in-person gathering (February 25). Space is limited and requires commitment to all four dates. [Register here](#)

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.](#)

Faculty Award Nominations and Teaching Allocation Grants Now Open

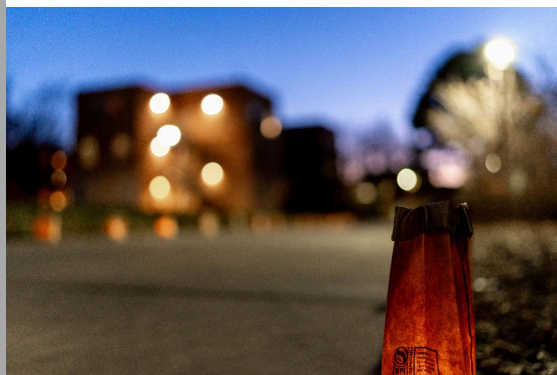
Nominate yourself or a colleague for one of these College awards:

- [A&S Teaching Excellence Award](#)
- [Marshall Award for Course Development and Curriculum Enhancement](#)—*interested applicants should submit an application*
- [Weber Award for Teaching Excellence in Science or Math for Lecturers or PTIs](#)

All due no later than March 2.

Nominate a colleague for a University Teaching Excellence Award. The Faculty Senate Teaching Enhancement Committee and CTL are accepting nominations through *December 19*. This year's awards use a new principle-based structure aligned with the UNM Framework for Teaching and Learning Success. All UNM instructors, students, and staff can nominate lecturers, instructors, and professors. [Submit nominations here.](#)

Apply for a Teaching Allocation Grant. Proposals are open for grants supporting innovative teaching projects, course upgrades, and new technologies. *Applications due January 23* at 11:59 PM. CTL offers consultation support for developing proposals. [Apply here.](#)



UPCOMING EVENTS

Black History Month Kick-Off Brunch Tickets Available

Join the Department of Africana Studies for their 41st annual Black History Month Kick-Off Brunch featuring keynote speaker and Albuquerque City Councilor Nichole Rogers. Ticket purchase link is below, with reduced rates for UNM students.

Black History Month Kick-Off Brunch

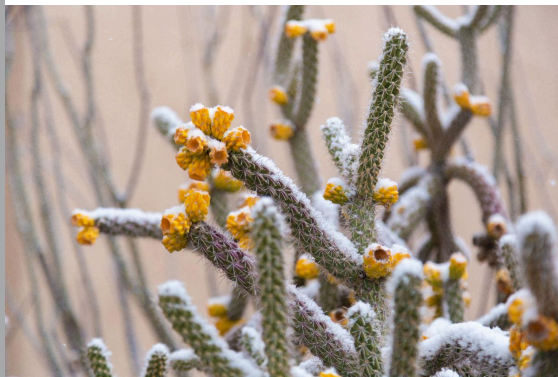


Keynote: Nichole Rogers

Sat., Jan. 31 | 10:30am | SUB Ballroom

Reserve your tickets today!

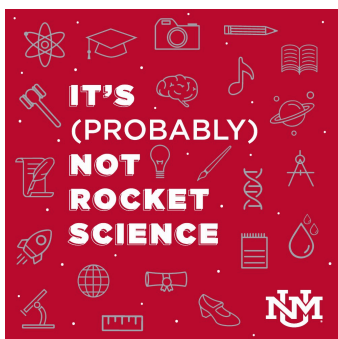
[goto.unm.edu/
bhmbrunch](https://goto.unm.edu/bhmbrunch)



A&S IN THE NEWS

UNM and Department News Stories

- [Earth & Planetary Sciences Helps Uncover Unexpected Climate-Driven Dust Cycles in the American Southwest](#)
- [Department of Linguistics Students Present Language Revitalization Projects at the Indigenous Language Institute Symposium](#)
- [Professor Emeritus Richard W. Etulain Releases 65th Book Exploring Basque History in the American West](#)
- [Political Science Students Receive Surprise Guest Lecture from Title IX Podcast Hosts](#)
- [Maxwell Museum of Anthropology Hosts Appraisal Clinic and Jewelry Sale Ahead of 16th Annual Navajo Rug Auction](#)
- [English Department and the Institute for Medieval Studies Co-Host Annual Conference for the International Society for the Study of Medievalism](#)



"It's (Probably) Not Rocket Science" Podcast Highlights the History of Farolitos and Luminarias

Dr. Carmella Scorcio Pacheco, post-doctoral fellow with Hispanic Southwest Studies (Spanish & Portuguese), discusses the history of farolitos and luminarias, in addition to one of UNM's oldest traditions, Hanging of the Greens.

FACULTY NEWS

Faculty and Students Partner with District 6 on Participatory Budgeting and Food Justice

Professors Jennifer Tucker (Community and Regional Planning) and Andreas Hernandez (Sustainability Studies) partnered with Albuquerque's District 6 to design a participatory budgeting pilot that gave residents direct say in allocating \$1.5 million in city funds. The student-designed process identified healthy food access as the top priority, leading to a Growers' Market that broke ground in July 2025. To date, approximately \$4 million has been mobilized toward resident priorities. Hernandez and graduate student Esther Hewitt have since formed a Participatory Action Research working group through UNM's NSF-funded Transformation Network, establishing a District 6 Food Policy Council and supporting legislative efforts to expand neighborhood food access.

Dixon Awarded Fulbright for Research and Teaching in Paris

Emeritus Professor E. James Dixon (Anthropology) has received a Fulbright award to teach and conduct research at the University of Paris in Fall 2025. While in residence at the Sorbonne, he will lecture on North American archaeology and collaborate with Dr. Claire Alix on the analysis of rare wooden artifacts recovered from melting Alaskan glaciers. He will also give a public talk, "How, When, and Why People First Came to the Americas," at the Société des Amériques at the Musée du Quai Branly–Jacques Chirac.

Jessica Goodkind Publishes Two Articles in *Social Science & Medicine*

Professor Jessica Goodkind (Sociology & Criminology) and colleagues recently published two articles in *Social Science & Medicine*. The first, co-authored with several graduate students, examines the [emotional and bodily dimensions of intersectional capitalism among Latinx immigrants in the United States](#). The second, written with Ifrah Magan, explores the [mental and physical health consequences of the U.S. citizenship exam for Rohingya refugees](#).

Language Learning Center Hosts Inaugural Festival of Languages

On November 7th, the Language Learning Center hosted the inaugural Festival of Languages. This event had over 200 attendees and featured connections between languages and research, culture, and careers from student, faculty, and community members. Sessions included hands-on cultural workshops like making dumplings, career presentations, and research on Indigenous Signed Languages.

León-Moreta Presents Affordable Housing Research at APPAM Annual Meeting

Associate Professor Dr. Agustín León-Moreta (School of Public Administration) presented research on affordable housing-, "Funding the Mandate: The Relationship Between Inclusionary Requirements and Local Commitments for Affordable Housing," at the 2025 Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM) Annual Meeting in Seattle, Washington.

Wood Has Two Forthcoming Books in 2026

Professor Emeritus Rich Wood (Sociology & Criminology) has two books forthcoming in 2026: *Bridging Social Divides: Increasing Social Cohesion in a Fragmented Society* will be published by Oxford University Press and *The Common Good in the Age of Artificial Intelligence* for Bloomsbury Academic, which Wood co-edited.

Spring 2026 Newsletter Timeline

Is your unit hosting a lecture, workshop, or special event this spring?

Submit early so we can include them in the monthly "Upcoming Events" section. Thanks for helping keep us connected.

February Issue

Submit by Wednesday, January 28
Publishes Wednesday, February 4

March Issue

Submit by Wednesday, March 4
Publishes Wednesday, March 11

May Issue (Part 1—Regular Newsletter)

Submit by Wednesday, April 29
Publishes Wednesday, May 6

May Issue (Part 2—Awards Edition)

Submit by Wednesday, May 13
Publishes Wednesday, May 20

👉 [Visit the A&S Newsletter hub for past issues and editorial guidelines.](#)

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