



**COLLEGE OF
ARTS & SCIENCES**
OFFICE OF THE DEAN

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WELCOME TO THE A&S NEWSLETTER



MARCH 2026 ISSUE

Dear Arts & Sciences Community,

As the Spring semester continues, we hope you are settling into the rhythm of the term and finding opportunities to connect with colleagues across UNM.

In this March 2026 newsletter, we share recent accomplishments from A&S faculty, students, and alumni, along with upcoming events, workshops, and funding opportunities happening across the College.

—A&S Dean's Office Staff

UPCOMING A&S EVENTS



[Mingle with the A&S Community](#)

Thursday, April 2 at 12 PM

[Science & Math Learning Center](#)

Join your friends at A&S for food and connection: we'll be serving lunch, with vegetarian and gluten-free options available.

Mark your calendars for our upcoming events:

- **Town Hall: Wednesday, April 15, SUB Ballroom C**
- **Monthly Mingle: Thursday, May 7, Ortega Hall**





Recap: A&S College Celebration of Excellence

On February 18th, we hosted the first Arts & Sciences College Celebration of Excellence. This event brought the A&S community together to celebrate the achievements of our dedicated staff and faculty. The event opened with Assessment and Marshall award recipients sharing their research with attendees, followed by the A&S Staff Award Ceremony. Congratulations to the following staff award recipients:

Excellence in Service and Collaboration

Molly Arévalo, Associate Director, Language Learning Center

Excellence in Leadership and Innovation

Dana Ellison, Administrative Assistant 3, History

Wellness Champion

Kyle Harvey, Graduate Services Coordinator, Native American Studies

Outstanding Student Employee

Ayonitoluwa Oyenuga

The event concluded with lectures given by our esteemed Regents' Professors, **Melinda Morgan, (Geography and Social Sciences)** and **Jason Scott Smith (History)**, and Regents' Lecturer, **Victor Acosta (Physics & Astronomy)**.

Save the date for next year's
A&S College Celebration of Excellence:
Wednesday, February 17, 2027



HSSC Building Reveal with Studio Tsien and SMPC Architects

On February 18, architects from **Studio Tsien** and **SMPC Architects** shared a preview of the design of the new **Humanities and Social Sciences Complex (HSSC)**. The presentation highlighted how the design team drew on New Mexico's cultural heritage and landscape, including inspiration from Bandelier National Monument.

The Architects emphasized features such as expanded green space, improved courtyard drainage, and acoustically sensitive materials to support neurodivergent students. A&S faculty, staff, and students also viewed the building model and shared feedback on making the space welcoming and accessible for the UNM community.

Stay tuned for further announcements on the HSSC's development and groundbreaking scheduled to take place in late 2026.



College of Arts & Sciences Joins at the Roundhouse for UNM Day.

On UNM Day, A&S faculty and staff met with legislators to highlight student success, research, and community impact. This event gave A&S the opportunity to showcase how the proposed Humanities and Social Sciences Complex would support prospective students and enhance academic programs. **Professor Matthew Hurteau (Biology)** provided a demonstration on their wildfire-prevention research and its statewide impact.



Arts & Sciences Dean's List

Nearly 400 students earned their place on the Dean's List for the Fall 2025 semester. Congratulations to our A&S students for their dedication to their academic pursuits:

BA = 288
BS = 102
Certificate = 2

NEWS FROM A&S RESEARCH SUPPORT SERVICES

Arts & Sciences Support for Undergraduate Research Experience

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.

[Applications open March 17. Apply through InfoReady.](#)

Support UNM Undergraduate Scholarship

◆ UROC 2026: Undergraduate Research Opportunity Conference

 April 17 | SUB

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

Spring Hybrid Writing Retreat

March 17-18, 9:00 am-3:00 pm, in-person and on Zoom

We've scheduled these dates for when UNM classes aren't in session, but local public K-12 schools are. We'll keep track of time so you can just write; ADVANCE and FRDO will provide lunch and snacks both days (if you're attending in-person). People can come and go as their schedules require.

[If you think you might want to participate \(in-person or by Zoom\) please fill out this form.](#) You can also RSVP “maybe” to help us make sure the snack count is accurate!

Newly Funded Projects

Eresay Alcantar-Velasquez (Earth & Planetary Sciences)—Wildfire Ash and Mine Waste Solids Influence of Redox and Interfacial Reactions on Metal Mobility and Implication for Water Quality in the Gallinas Creek Watershed, New Mexico. Sponsored by: New Mexico State University

Dana Bell (Cradle to Career Policy Institute)—Impacts of Child Care Subsidy Expansion Policies on New Mexico's Child Care Workforce and Families' Access to Quality Care. Sponsored by: Department of Health and Human Services

Becky Bixby (Biology)—Creation of a Conservation Prioritization Geospatial Model for the Middle Rio Grande Bosque. Sponsored by: New Mexico Water Resources Research Institute. Development of a web-based conservation map and prioritization model for the Middle Rio Grande bosque. Sponsored by: Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District

Svende Braun (Physics & Astronomy) —Development of CMOS Sensors for HEP Experiments. Sponsored by: Fermi Laboratory

Haifei Chen (Interdisciplinary Science Co-op) —Infrastructure Integrity Assessment of Floating Cage Oyster Farms in the Northern Gulf of Mexico. Sponsored by: University of South Alabama

Russell D. Greaves (Office of Contract Archaeology)—CP-CESU Class III Cultural Resources Survey: Virtual Fence, Valle Toledo Trail, Jemez Springs Parcels 1 and 2_185-1389. Sponsored by: National Park Service

Marcy E. Litvak (Biology)—High-Resolution Forest Carbon Monitoring and Modeling: Continued Prototype Development and Deployment to National and Global Scales. Sponsored by: University of Maryland

Tyler J. Mackey (Earth & Planetary Sciences)—Rocky Mountain Geobiology Symposium 2026. Sponsored by: Agouron Institute. Seasonal Metabolism Changes Across Redox Gradients in Photosynthetic Mats, Lake Fryxell, Antarctica. Sponsored by: Regents of the University of California

Esteban H. Muldavin (Biology)—NMRAM Subalpine Riverine Wetlands Project. Sponsored by: New Mexico Environment Department

Richard Norwood (Biology)—Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) Distribution Modeling and Information Development. Sponsored by: New Mexico Game and Fish Department

Megan J. Osborne (Biology)—Development of Arkansas River Shiner Genomic Tools. Sponsored by: New Mexico Game and Fish Department

Jessica Richardson (Speech & Hearing Sciences)—Investigating the Benefits of Remotely Supervised Neuromodulation in Primary Progressive Aphasia. Sponsored by: University of Texas Austin

Emma Trentman (Languages, Cultures, & Literatures)—Multilingual and Multidialectal Approaches in the Arabic Language Classroom. Sponsored by: Qatar Foundation International, LLC

Thomas F. Turner (Biology)—Joint Venture Agreement. Sponsored by:

Paul Guerin (Institute for Social Research)—Court Fees as a Structural Determinant of Overdose Deaths: A Natural Experiment. Sponsored by: New York University

Lara Hamidi-Ismert (Mathematics & Statistics)—KMS States of Quantum Cuntz-Krieger Algebras. Sponsored by: National Science Foundation

Derek Hamilton (Psychology)—Multimodal Imaging of Prenatal Alcohol Exposure: Mechanisms Underlying Spatial Navigation Memory Deficits in Children and Adolescents. Sponsored by: Lovelace Biomedical Research Institute

Matthew D. Hurteau (Biology)—FEC: Enhance Spatial And Temporal Efficacy of Prescribed Fire and Managed Wildland Fire. Sponsored by: Boise State University

Forest Service

Benjamin Warner (Geography & Environmental Sciences)—Collaborative Research: IRES: Partnerships Along the Headwaters of the Americas for Young Scientist Program. Sponsored by: National Science Foundation

Su Zhang (Geography & Environmental Sciences)—A Research-Driven Development of an Optimized SQL Database and Web Application for Monitoring GSA's Cover System Performance. Sponsored by: GeoSystems Analysis, Inc. GSA Ok Tedi Mining Project Phase 6: Research on Data, SQL Database Expansion, and Web Application Improvement. Sponsored by: GeoSystems Analysis, Inc.



NEWS FROM THE ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR STUDENT SUCCESS

Start planning for the fall semester with support to enrich your teaching!

Connect with the Library's Undergraduate Engagement Team to integrate interactive asynchronous tutorials into 100–200/1000–2000-level courses or direct students to Research Clinics—75-minute, one-on-one sessions with librarians to support research assignments.

You can apply for undergraduate student peer support in your classroom.

Supplemental instructors, Peer-Learning Facilitators or Online Learning Assistants, (application deadline April 10th).

If you employ student-centered pedagogies and teach classes with capacities between 45 and 126 students, you might be interested in applying to teach in a Technology Enhanced Learning Studio. **Best consideration date March 13th, applications accepted until March 27th.**

Join over 200 UNM faculty as a **Student Experience Project Fellow** as part of a community of practice to learn and apply low-lift evidence-based strategies that build belonging and a sense of community in the classroom and improve academic outcomes for all groups of students. [Applications can be submitted here.](#)
Email StudentExperienceUNM@unm.edu for more questions.

2026 Spring Teaching Conference

Constellating Our Praxis: Connection and Inspiration in Teaching and Learning at UNM

April 8: In-Person at the SUB

April 9: Virtual via Zoom

The Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL) and the Faculty Senate Teaching Enhancement Committee warmly invite you to join the 2026 Spring Teaching Conference – a wonderful opportunity to explore ideas and build community around teaching and learning.

Conference Features:

- **Community Learning:** The conference welcomes faculty, instructors, staff, administrators, graduate students, and undergraduate students with an interest in teaching and learning.
- **Alignment with the UNM Framework for Teaching and Learning Success**
- **Keynote Luncheon** with Dr. Marissa Greenberg, Associate Professor of English and Presidential Teaching Fellow on 4/8 at 12 PM
- **Teaching Excellence Awards** on Wednesday April 8th from 4 to 6 p.m. in SUB Ballroom C

Register by March 24

STUDENT EXPERIENCE PROJECT

"SEP provides some really thoughtful interventions and pre-emptive approaches to make students feel like they belong. So much to draw from."

- UNM Faculty Fellow

JOIN THE **TWO HUNDRED** UNM FACULTY
ACROSS **13 COLLEGES** WHO HAVE
TRANSFORMED STUDENT OUTCOMES

26%

Students with improved experiences were ~26% more likely to earn As or Bs, in 2023 U.S. study.

22%

Average % decrease in students receiving DFW compared to historical rates: 22%, in 2023 U.S. study.



**APPLY TO
PARTICIPATE
BY MARCH 31**

HERE!

BECOME A SEP FELLOW

Use evidence-based interventions to improve academic outcomes in your classes. Set the Tone for an Inclusive and Supportive Classroom, and Improve Social Belonging and Mindset Foundations.

- \$300 stipend
- One-semester commitment
- Six Total Hours of Workshops
- Access to Canvas page of resources for Fellows
- Optional Community of Practice
- Optional use of the PERTS Ascend survey of student experience

WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

- SEP Orientation - May 18 - 2:30-5:00 PM
- Pre-Semester Workshop - Aug. 10 - 2:00-3:30 PM
- Week 4 Check-In - Thursday, Sept. 10 at 8:30 AM (in person), or Friday, Sept. 11 at 8:30 AM (remote)
- Week 9 Check-In - Thursday, Oct. 15 at 8:30 AM (in person), or Friday, Oct. 16 at 8:30 AM (remote)

StudentExperienceUNM@unm.edu



Fall 2026 Call for Instructor Participation: Embedded Academic Support Programs

Embedded tutoring is a model of academic support in which a peer educator works directly within a course over the full term under the guidance of faculty and instructors to help deepen student engagement with course material, encourage active participation, or lead recitation sessions.

The following UNM programs use a common faculty proposal application to ensure courses are connected to the most appropriate type of embedded support:

- Peer Learning Facilitators (administered by the College Enrichment Program)
- Online Learning Assistants (administered by the Center for Teaching and Learning)
- Supplemental Instruction Leaders (administered by the Center for Teaching and Learning)

This common form will allow UNM to better support our faculty members by connecting their individual proposals to the academic support options most aligned with their curricular plans.

Apply by April 10

A&S Center for Academic Success Workshops

The **A&S Center for Academic Success** is offering a series of in-person workshops to help department administrators, staff and faculty become more familiar with undergraduate processes and curriculum:

Advisement Practices at A&S

Monday, April 13 | 1- 2:45 PM (In-person)

Offers an overview of advisement structures and policies in A&S, highlighting student–advisor ratios, appointment models, and strategies for supporting diverse student needs. To support the end of the semester, we are repeating the following workshop.

Workshop Registration

CAS Assessment Grants

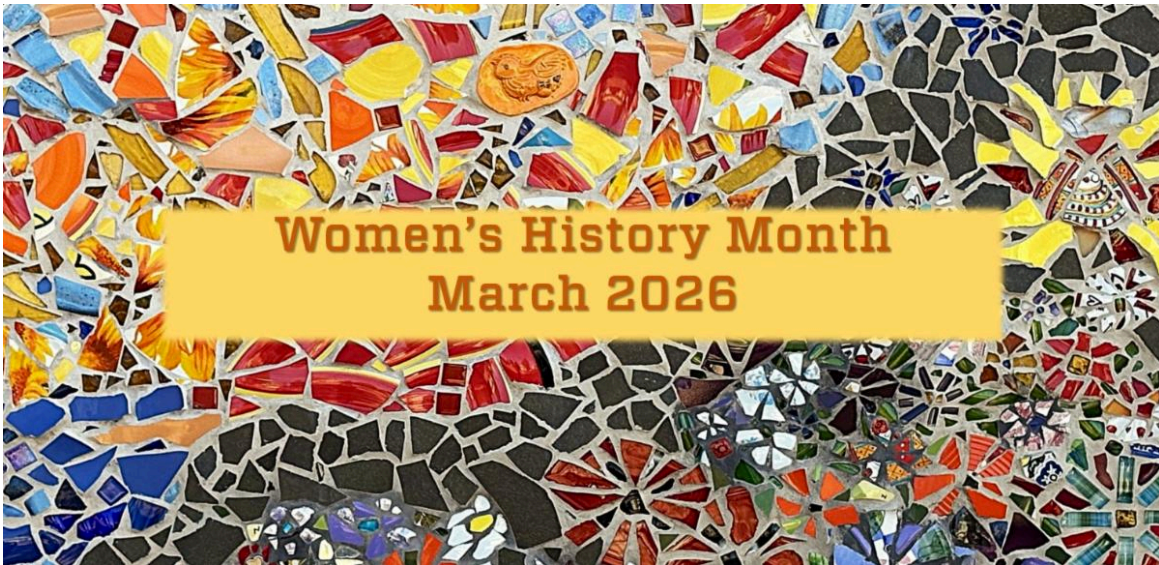
The College of Arts & Sciences offers assessment improvement and learning grants. These grants are available for A&S faculty to support assessment projects that promote improvements in teaching, learning, program delivery, and curricular enhancements that advance student success.

Please send application via email to Satya Maliakal Witt, Special Assistant to the Dean for Assessment and Strategic Academic Planning, assessmentas@unm.edu.

Applications are due Friday, April 17, 2026.

CAS Assessment Grant Application

A&S ACADEMIC EVENTS



Women's History Month Events Lineup

NEW MEXICO CIVICS SYMPOSIUM

Friday March 13, 2026 | 10 AM - 4:30 PM
Hodgin Hall

The New Mexico Civics Symposium brings together educators, policymakers, community leaders, national partners, and students to explore the potential development of a New Mexico Civics Diploma Seal. The event aims to strengthen civic education and advance meaningful, sustainable civic learning opportunities for students across New Mexico.

[Register Here](#)



UNM INTERNATIONAL STUDIES INSTITUTE

2026 LECTURE SERIES: FILMS OF THE
MIDDLE EAST

March Line-Up

March 3: *Amreeka* (US/Palestine); Abdullah Serag,
Arabic instructor, UNM and Albuquerque Academy

March 10: *Cairo Station* (Egypt); Emily Drumsta,
Middle Eastern Studies, UT Austin

March 24: *Captain Abu Raed* (Jordan); Zack
Manning, former Peace Corps volunteer and
founder of Diwan Institute for Humanity

March 31: *The Mummy* (Egypt); Doaa Omran,
UNM English. *Discussion begins at 3:30pm



Questions? Email Heather Sweetser
at hsweetser@unm.edu

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2026 C. Ruth and Calvin P. Horn Lecture: Dr. Elizabeth Ellis

Recording Stories in the Indigenous Middle Ages: Ancient Iconography in Middle America

Thursday, March 26, 2026 | 5:30 PM
Hodgin Hall Bobo Room

A citizen of the Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma, **Dr. Elizabeth Ellis** is Associate Professor of History at Princeton University. She is a scholar of early North America with a focus on diplomacy, borderlands, cross-cultural exchange, and Indigenous politics.

January 2025 - June 2026

BLACK AND..

NEGOTIATING THE COMPLEXITIES OF DIASPORA COMMUNITY BUILDING

A Qualitative Research Study of
Race, Place, and Belonging Through Communication



Livestream the
Events on
Instagram
@unmcjdept



EVENT

Friday March 27th at 12:00 pm
Jackson Student Center
Anderson School
The Black Diaspora Panel

Ínaru de la Fuente Díaz, JD (Communication)
Rebecca Ezechukwu (Psychiatry)
Tiffany N. Florvil, PhD (History)
Jamal Martin, PhD (Africana)
Peter Njagi, PhD (Africana)
Sarah Townsend, PhD (English)

CONTACT US
FOR MORE INFORMATION



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35th Annual Research Days

**A Presentation of Student Research Celebrating Discovery and Education in the
Biological Sciences**

April 9-10, 2026 | Castetter Hall

On Thursday, the event will kick off with a special in-person seminar by Dr. Priyadarshini Devarajan. Friday's programming will include student talks and posters, biology laboratory tours, a buffet lunch, a scholarship and award ceremony, and a keynote seminar by Dr. Nandita Garud.

**Snead Wertheim Endowed
Lecture: Dr. Les Field**

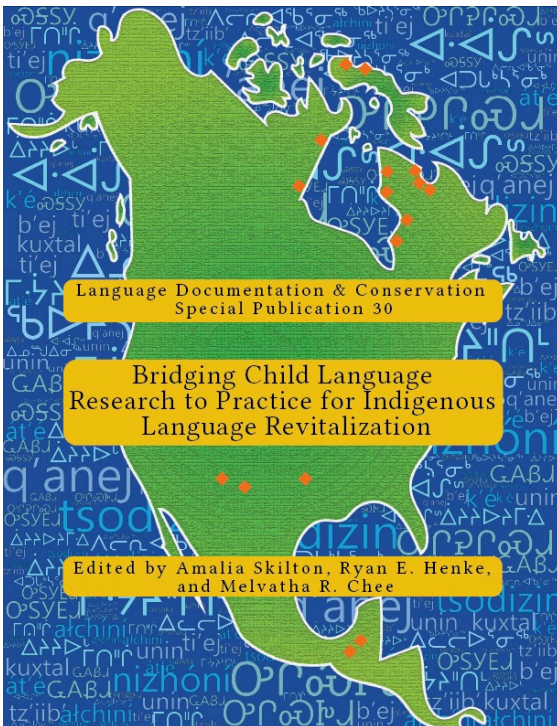
Intercultural Ethnography: The Work of Uriah Katzenelenbogen in Lithuania During the Inter-War Period

**Friday, April 10 | 2 PM
Hibben Center, 105**

Uriah Katzenelenbogen, a Lithuanian Jewish ethnographer in the interwar republic, used folklore, literature, and scholarship to foster intercultural dialogue and advocate for a multiethnic Lithuanian nation after World War I. By comparing European and Latin American uses of folklore and situating his distinctive ethnographic work, this study revisits alternative Jewish political and cultural visions of the early twentieth century.



A&S IN THE NEWS



[Linguistics, Navajo Language Program, Indigenous Child Language Research Center \(ICLRC\) and Speech & Hearing Sciences Faculty Advance Indigenous Child Language Research with New Open-Access Journal Volume.](#)

[Professor Joe Galewsky \(Earth & Planetary Sciences\) Breaks Down the Southwest's Record Warm Winter.](#)

[Professor Maria Lane \(Geography & Environmental Studies\) Named Fellow of the American Association of Geographers.](#)

[Professor Matthew D. Hurteau's \(Biology\) Vision Drives UNM FiRES Center's Work on Wildfire Resilience Across New Mexico.](#)

Distinguished Professor Lisa Broidy (Sociology & Criminology) and her colleagues in Australia published two papers: [Developmental Trajectories of Outpatient Mental Health Service Contact from Childhood to Early Adulthood in an Australian Birth Cohort](#) in *Frontiers in Psychiatry*

and [“Identifying Variations in Experiences and Life Events Across Female Offending Trajectories in an Australian Birth Cohort”](#) in *Psychology, Crime & Law*.



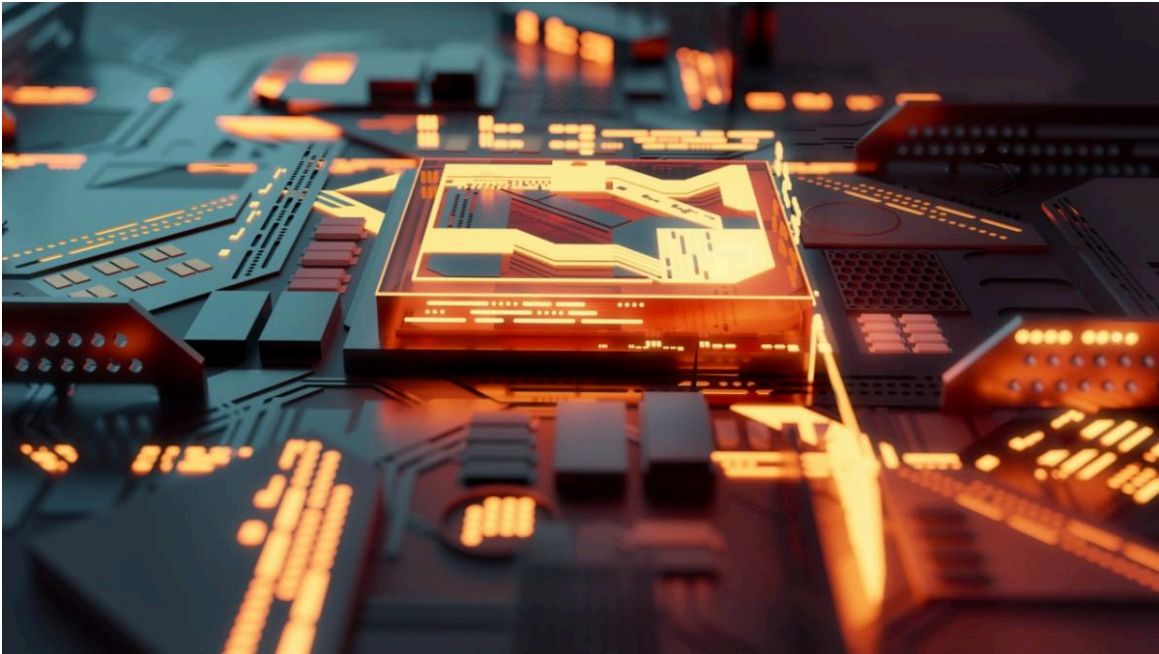
[**Professor Marsha Hardeman \(Africana Studies\)** Discusses the History and Impact of the Green Book on KOAT, Highlighting Its Role in Guiding Black Travelers Through the Era of Jim Crow.](#)

[**Nancy López \(Sociology & Criminology\)** Published an Essay as Part of the AfroLatino Forum Pensamiento Series on the Urgency of Intersectionality as Critical Inquiry and Praxis in Federal Data Collection.](#)

[**Professor Manuel García y Griego \(History\)** Presented a Webinar on the Upcoming USMCA Trade Negotiations Involving Mexico, Canada, and the United States.](#)

[**Regents' Professor Melinda Morgan \(Geography & Environmental Sciences\)** Leads Ecology and Society Special Feature on Regional Resilience Research.](#)

[**Political Science Grads** Take Oscars Reform Proposal to Chicago Bar Association..](#)



[Quantum New Mexico Institute \(QNM-I\) Propel Statewide Leadership in Quantum Innovation.](#)

[Department of Anthropology Celebrates Women's History Month.](#)

[Department of Physics & Astronomy Hosted Lecture Examining Health Risks of Microplastics and Environmental Toxins.](#)

[Growing Future Scientists: CNM Biotech Program Streams Into UNM **Biology Department.**](#)

[Department of Africana Studies Highlights 100 Years of Black History Month Through Campus Programming.](#)





[Professor Erin Wilkinson Advances Global Signed Language Research](#)

In the latest episode of *It's (Probably) Not Rocket Science*, **Professor Erin Wilkinson (Linguistics)** discusses her pioneering work on signed language diversity. Her research involves comparative studies of American Sign Language and Langue des Signes de Côte d'Ivoire and the role of Deaf community mobility in shaping linguistic structures. The interview also explores Wilkinson's academic journey and how her research sheds light on communication, culture, and the future of signed language scholarship.



[Professor James Cavanagh Leads UNM Research Linking Brain Signals to Motivation and Decision-Making](#)

Professor James Cavanagh (Psychology) is spearheading a study examining how specific brain signals track progress toward goals and respond to rewards. His work helps clarify the neural mechanisms behind motivation and decision-making, with implications for understanding mental health conditions.





The **Department of Africana Studies**, in partnership with African American Student Services, hosted the 41st annual Black History Month Kickoff Brunch January 31st, 2026. The event was a great success this year with 400 guests and keynote speaker City Councilor Nichole Rogers.

Distinguished Professor and Department Chair Adrian Johnston (Philosophy) was appointed Professor of Philosophy at the European Graduate School (EGS) in Saas-Fee, Switzerland.

Graduate student **Akasha Khalsa (Linguistics)** was awarded the Graduate Pathway Scholarship, and will be presenting some of her thesis work on Torá, a dormant Amazonian language, at the Symposium of Amazonian Languages 2026 at the University of Alberta in March 2026.

In July 2026, **Ph.D. students Shewar Kahn & Nick Chavez (Linguistics)** will present their work at the Critical Approaches to Discourse Analysis Across Disciplines conference (CADAAD) at the University of Valladolid in Spain.

Professor Nancy López (Sociology & Criminology) published an essay in the AfroLatino Forum Pensamiento series on the urgency of intersectionality as critical inquiry and praxis in federal data collection, and served as an invited speaker at a Migration Policy Institute roundtable on Black immigrants. López also presented at the CAND3 Consortium on Analytics for Data-Driven Decision-Making and co-led a workshop on Intersectionality and Modeling in Quantitative Research at the Institute in Critical Quantitative Computational and Mixed Methodologies Summit. She also received a Unidos Partnership Travel Grant from Florida International University.

Dr. Rahul Krishnamurthy (Speech & Hearing Sciences) was selected as a Scholar by the New Mexico Alzheimer's Disease Research Center (NM ADRC). The program, which is part of the Center's Research Education Component (REC), selects scholars based on their potential to become independent researchers in the field of Alzheimer's

Disease and related Dementia (ADRD). They were also named a New Investigator Finalist at the Dysphagia Research Society. He was one of six new investigators selected present his research at the annual Dysphagia Research Society meeting in March 2026.

Associate Professor Eli Wilson (Sociology & Criminology) was a co-author of an article forthcoming in *Work & Occupations* about how people build careers in and around creative industries. It is titled, "Balancing Acts: Composite Careers in Nashville's Music and Service Industries."

SPRING 2026 NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

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.

April Issue

Submit by Wednesday, April 8 Publishes Wednesday, April 15

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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