



COLLEGE OF
ARTS & SCIENCES
OFFICE OF THE DEAN

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WELCOME TO THE A&S NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2026 ISSUE



UPCOMING A&S EVENTS



TODAY: A&S Town Hall

**Wednesday, April 15 at 2 PM
SUB Ballroom A**

We'll share news and updates on the college budget, AI and teaching, research, and leadership.

Refreshments will be served. We look forward to seeing you there!



Humanities & Social Sciences Building Blessing Ceremony

Tuesday, April 28 at 2 PM
HSS Building Site

Arts & Sciences is hosting a blessing ceremony ahead of underground work beginning on the Humanities & Social Sciences Building this summer. President Stokes, the Provost, and the Dean will speak, along with the principal architect Billie Tsien. Warlance Chee (Diné) will lead the event with a land blessing.



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

Thursday, May 7 at 12 PM
Ortega Hall

Join your friends at A&S for food and connection for our final Mingle of the Spring 2026 semester. Vegetarian and gluten-free options available.

**NEWS FROM A&S RESEARCH
SUPPORT SERVICES**

Reminder: 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.

[Apply through InfoReady](#)



[UROC 2026: Undergraduate Research Opportunity Conference](#)

UNM SUB I April 17, 9AM–3:30 PM

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

[Reclaiming Your \(Research\) Time](#)

April 24, 12:30– 2 PM, (Zoom)

Feeling buried under administrative tasks or like you're juggling caretaking responsibilities? Join a candid conversation with faculty at different career stages as they share practical strategies for reclaiming time for research and the work that matters most. There's no one-size-fits-all solution, but their insights might spark ideas to help you take control of your schedule.

Speakers include:

- Thomas F. Turner, Regents' Professor in the Biology Department and Curator, Division of Fishes, for the Museum of Southwestern Biology
- Melanie Moses, Professor, Computer Science, Associate Professor, Biology
- Maria Lane, Professor, Geography & Environmental Studies, Dean of Graduate Studies
- Myrriah Gomez, Associate Professor, Honors College

[Register Here](#)

Newly Funded Projects

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

Irene Salinas Remiro (Biology)—Short and Long-term Vaccination Efficacy Against Piscine Lactococcosis. Supported by: University of Washington.

Charles K. Shearer (Earth & Planetary Sciences)—Isotopic Constraints on the Origin and Distribution of Primitive Sulfur Components During Early Solar System Evolution. Supported by: Brown University.

Erin Shortlidge (Biology)—Promoting Graduate Teaching Assistant Teaching Professional Development Through a Structured, Cohort-Based Program. Supported by: National Science Foundation.

Thomas F. Turner (Biology)—Rio Grande Sucker Genomics Tools. Supported by: New Mexico Game and Fish Department.

Keith D. Wilkins (Institute for Social Research)—Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) Program Evaluation. Supported by: New Mexico Administrative Office of the Courts.

Su Zhang (Geography & Environmental Studies)—Design, Development, Hosting, and Maintenance of a Database and Web Portal for the Navajo Nation Division of Transportation. Supported by: Navajo Nation.

College of Arts & Sciences Spring 2026 Support Program Awardees

Event Support Program

Adrian J. Brearley (Earth & Planetary Sciences)—Nanomaterials Characterization Facility and JEOL USA Workshop in Advanced Electron Microscopy and 4D-STEM.

Andrew Bourelle (English)—Creative Writing Reading Series.

Travel Support Program (Cont.)

Loren Collingwood (Political Science)—Threat, Emulation, and Partisanship: Variation in Sanctuary City Protection.

Jonathan Davis-Secord (English)—Glossing Trans Bodies in Early Medieval England.

Carmen Julia Holguín-Chaparro (Spanish & Portuguese)—April for the Words and Fourth Poetry Meeting of Angels in The Land of the Enchantment.

Eva Rodríguez González (Spanish & Portuguese)—2026 K-16 Educators Summer Institute: Reimagining Borders Through Sounds, Sights, and Sensations.

Andrea Román Alfaro (Sociology and Criminology)—Migration, Citizenship, and Racialization in Postcolonial Welfare States.

Nick Daniel Rivas (Chicana & Chicano Studies)—Latina/o Studies Association (LSA) Conference 2026.

Jessica C. Rowland (Sustainability Studies Program, Department of Geography & Environmental Studies)—2nd Annual Geography and Environmental Studies Student Showcase.

Meshell Sturgis (Communication & Journalism)—Black And... Presents a Keynote with Dr. Tomide Oloruntobi.

Emma Trentman (Language Learning Center)—2026 Festival of Languages.

Subvention Support Program

Diana Dragomir (Physics & Astronomy)—Uncovering the Rapidly Evolving Orbits of the Dynamic TOI-201 System.

Davorka Gulisija (Biology)—Mechanisms of Adaptation in Rapidly Changing Environments.

Santiago Vaquera (Spanish & Portuguese)—Sonámbulos.

Travel Support Program

Laura Belmonte (Chicana & Chicano Studies)—Latin American Studies Association 2026.

Stefon Flego (Linguistics)—Leading and Lagging in Sound Change: Insights From Co-variation in the NZE Monophthongs and Diphthongs.

Matthew David Goodwin (Chicana & Chicano Studies)—Latinx Visions.

Carmen Julia Holguín-Chaparro (Spanish & Portuguese)—Grito de Mujer (Woman's Scream).

Kimberle S. López (Spanish & Portuguese)—Presenting Migration Research & Exhibit in Mexico and Japan.

Katherine Massoth (History)—Western Association of Women's Historians.

Irina Vasilyeva Meier (Languages, Cultures, & Literatures)—Beyond the Standard Register: Using Custom AI Chatbots to Teach Russian Dialects.

Joachim Oberst (Philosophy)—7th International Heidegger Conference.

Andrea Román Alfaro (Sociology & Criminology)—State Spectacles and Everyday Absences: How Everyday Violence Governance Shapes Women's Roles and Experiences with Violence.

Jacob Schroder (Department of Mathematics & Statistics)—Schroder Travel to University of Wuppertal.

Meshell Sturgis (Communication & Journalism)—Travel to Leeds, UK for Race and Media Conference Presentation of Paper Titled: Black Mediums and Messages: The Racializing Grammars of Comics and Cinema.

Santiago Vaquera (Spanish & Portuguese)—HISPAUSA Conference and LASA.

Shannon Withycombe (History)—American Association for the History of Medicine.

Tonmoy Chakraborty (Department of Physics & Astronomy)—Reflected Inline Detection in Epi Oblique Plane Microscopy.

Jessica Carey-Webb (Spanish & Portuguese)—Between the Occident and Orient: Racialized Futures and Environmental Collapse in A Morte e o Meteoro.



NEWS FROM THE ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR STUDENT SUCCESS

2025- 2026 Teaching Excellence Awards

Congratulations to all A&S faculty and students selected for the annual UNM Teaching Excellence Awards:

College of Arts & Sciences Teaching Excellence Award for Tenured/Tenure-Track Faculty

Jonathan Davis-Secord, Associate Professor, Department of English

College of Arts & Sciences Teaching Excellence Award for Lecturers

Shantam Ray, Lecturer III, Department of History

Teaching Excellence Award for Innovation in Teaching and Assessment

Greg Heileman, Professor, Department of Computer Science, Mathematics, Engineering, and Computer Science

Susan Deese-Roberts Outstanding Teaching Assistants of the Year

- Ross Cocks, Graduate Teaching Assistant, Department of Mathematics & Statistics
- Brisa del Bosque, Graduate Teaching Assistant, Department of Spanish & Portuguese
- Dayna Dominguez, Graduate Teaching Assistant, Geography & Environmental Studies
- Atul Ojha, Graduate Teaching Assistant, Department of Chemistry & Chemical Biology

College of Arts & Sciences Teaching Excellence Award for Adjunct Faculty

Peter Njagi Mwangi, Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Africana Studies

College of Arts & Sciences Teaching Excellence Award for Graduate Teaching Assistants

Averie Basch, Department of English

Teaching Excellence Award for Cultivating Community

Dominique Rodriguez, Assistant Professor of Spanish, Humanities Division & Chicana/o Studies

Research-Centered and Experiential Learning Award

Adam S. Hernandez, Senior Lecturer II, Geography & Environmental Studies

Teaching Excellence Award for Reflection in Teaching

Laura E. Arteaga, Associate Professor of English and Coordinator of Digital Learning, UNM-Gallup Campus

AI updates: We have completed analysis of responses to the AI survey taken by A&S faculty in Fall 2025. In response, the College affirms its commitment to supporting each faculty member's individual choices about whether and how to engage AI in teaching and learning. We will continue to offer opportunities for AI literacy and to foster critical, humanistic conversations about the pedagogical, ethical, and disciplinary implications of these technologies.

You can view the full survey results here: [CAS AI Faculty Survey Results AY 25-26](#)

Senior Lecturer Irina Vasilyeva Meier (Languages, Cultures & Literatures) was recently appointed as Special Assistant to the Dean for AI. She leads a cohort of 14 A&S AI Literacy Fellows who will explore AI-related pedagogies, create publicly shareable teaching artifacts (AI free or AI integrated), and present their work at the College Celebration in Spring 2027. Dr. Meier will also represent the College on the new UNM AI Steering Committee.

Teaching Essay Writing in the Age of AI

Wednesday, April 29, 3- 4:30 PM
Ortega 335

Following up on the survey we sent to departments and programs in the College of Arts and Sciences regarding how to teach essay writing in the age of AI, we would like to invite instructors to join us for a workshop on Wednesday, April 29. We will present briefly the results of our survey and open a discussion about the strategies instructors who teach essay writing have developed in response to the challenge of AI, as well as the needs and issues they have encountered. Please join us for this workshop, which is intended to facilitate the sharing of our experiences and innovations and to initiate a reflection on the very concrete ways AI is already transforming our work.

Please direct your questions and comments to Pierre-Julien Harter (pjharter@unm.edu) or Daniel Wolne (dsw1@unm.edu).

CAS Assessment Grants

The College of Arts & Sciences is expanding the focus of its annual assessment grants to align with the goals of the [UNM Assessment Recharge year](#). The goal is to provide support for units developing or significantly reworking their program

assessment plans, as well as building a repository of exemplar assessment materials. Take a look at the new call and consider applying.

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

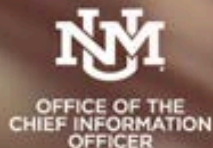
Supporting student success through grade clarity:

April 17 is the last day that students can drop via Loboweb without a form. Now, and as we near the end of the semester, it's useful to clarify to students how they can get a reliable grade estimate and provide them with reminders of the academic and other supports available to help them get to the finish line.

Many students rely on Canvas grade estimates. If you're using Canvas, you can [check gradebook accuracy quickly by using the 'Test Student' feature](#) to ensure that your points totals for assignments and assignment groups are functioning as you intend. You can also learn more about how the 'total' column works by clicking [here](#). If you know that your Canvas course does not give accurate automatic grade estimates, you can [turn off the total grade column and communicate to students how to estimate their grade](#).

Register for TECH DAYS March 20th - April 17th

Presented by



Find more info at techdays.unm.edu



Registration for Tech Days 2026 is open! It is a no-cost event on technology related topics for students, faculty and staff.

This is an exclusive opportunity to participate in no-cost sessions, discussions, and hands-on demos of current and future technological innovations at the University.

[Register Here](#)

A&S ACADEMIC EVENTS





UNM INTERNATIONAL STUDIES INSTITUTE

2026 LECTURE SERIES: FILMS OF THE
MIDDLE EAST

April Line-Up

April 7: *The Circle* (Iran); Mozafar
Banihashemi, UNM Religious Studies

April 14: *Crossing the Bridge* (Turkiye);
Santiago Vaquera-Vasquez, UNM Spanish &
Portuguese

April 21: *Adam* (Morocco); Touria Khannous,
Arabic, Louisiana State University (LSU)

Questions? Email Heather Sweetser at
hsweetser@unm.edu



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FILM
DISCUSSIONS TO
FOLLOW AT 2PM

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TO THE PUBLIC

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CODE OR USE THE
ZOOM LINK
BELOW TO JOIN

[unm.zoom.us/my/unm.
arabic.heather](https://unm.zoom.us/my/unm_arabic.heather)



The **Department of Philosophy** invites you to this year's **Brian O'Neil Memorial Lectures**.

Rebecca Comay (University of Toronto), whose work spans political philosophy, psychoanalytic theory, and German idealism, will deliver two lectures in Mitchell Hall, Room 122.

Endgame of Art, Endgame of Politics: Hegel's Aesthetics
Thursday, April 16, 3:30 PM



Lumpentragedy: The Eighteenth Brumaire
Friday, April 17, 3:30 PM

Both lectures are free and open to the public.
[Learn more here.](#)



GRAD SHOWCASE FOR GENDER WORKS-IN-PROGRESS

1104 MESA VISTA HALL

APRIL 17

9:30-
11AM

PANEL: GENDERING VOICES OF RESISTANCE AND RESILIENCE: UNRAVELING WOMEN'S STORIES OF BODILY AUTONOMY AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

POSTER SESSION: CHALLENGING HISTORICAL NARRATIVES AND EMPOWERING HISTORICAL VOICES

11:15-
12:45

1-
2:30
PM

MIXED MEDIA SHOW: MEDIEVAL TO MODERN: VISUALIZING GENDER AND IDENTITY THROUGH PERFORMANCES OF TIME AND FASHION

PANEL: FROM PERSONAL LOSS TO POLITICAL POWER: GENDER CONSCIOUSNESS AND EMPOWERED NARRATIVES IN 20TH CENTURY AND CONTEMPORARY ACTIVISM

2:45-
4:15
PM

BROUGHT TO YOU BY:

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
THE HISTORY GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION
THE WOMEN, GENDER, AND SEXUALITY STUDIES PROGRAM (WGSS)

The Department of History, the History Graduate Student Association, and the Women, Gender, & Sexuality Studies Program (WGSS) are hosting the first Grad Showcase for Gender Works-in-Progress.

Friday, April 17, 2026
History Commons, Room 1104 MVH

Join us to celebrate the amazing interdisciplinary, gendered research, and creative works being created by graduate students across our campus!

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO

COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES, INSTITUTE FOR MEDIEVAL STUDIES

2026 Helen Damico Memorial Lecture Series

Homecoming



*Incipit Page from the Gospel of Luke, depicting images from the Parable of the Prodigal Son.
Top left: Illustration of the feast for the Prodigal Son's return, featuring the slaughtering of the fattened calf.
Bottom Left: Illustration of the Prodigal Son's return, featuring the gifts of sandals, a cloak, and a ring from his father.
Stadtarchiv Goslar, The Goslar Gospels, MS. 2153, Goslar, Germany, ca. 1220-1240.*

April 20–23, 2026

Lectures will be presented in person in the Science & Math Learning Center Auditorium at 5:30pm each day.

This event is free and open to the public.
For a full schedule and further information,
visit ims.unm.edu

NM INSTITUTE FOR
MEDIEVAL STUDIES



Department of Spanish and Portuguese
 SPAN 375 "Cultura Popular de Nuevo México"
 Spanish as a Heritage Language Program

Bailes de salón

Workshop



Come learn traditional dances de Nuevo México with Lucy Salazar, and músicos Heather Trost, Felipe Ruibal, Larry Ulibarri and Richard Sena!



Friday 11-12
24 April P.M.

Ortega Hall
Reading Room (335)

* Este evento cuenta para puntos extras



¡Taller de bailes de salón de Nuevo México! | Workshop on Traditional Dances of New Mexico

April 24, 2026, 11 AM— 12 PM
Ortega Hall, Room 335

Join the SPAN 375 class, Cultura Popular de Nuevo México, to learn traditional bailes of Nuevo México featuring instructor Lucy Salazar and músicos Felipe Ruibal, Heather Trost and more!

A&S IN THE NEWS

[Associate Professor Francisco J. Galarte \(American Studies\) Uses Bad Bunny to Examine Culture, Fashion, and Resistance in New Course](#)

[Ph.D Candidate Yujian Lu \(Geography\) Uses Social Media to Trace Public Perceptions of Housing Discrimination Across the U.S.](#)

[UNM Alumnus Victoriano Cárdenas \(English\) Wins Award for New Mexico Gothic Novella](#)

[New Herbarium Curator Diana Gamba Builds on Legacy of Women in Botany](#)

[Professor Julia Fulghum \(Chemistry & Chemical Biology\) Announces Departure from UNM, Reflects upon Leadership at ADVANCE](#)



[UNM Biologists Collaborate on Landmark Effort to Eradicate Parasitic Disease](#)

[Political Science Students Represent UNM on National Muhammad Ali Center Panel](#)

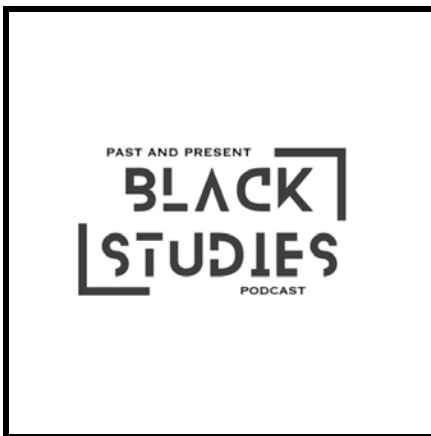
[Science & Math Learning Center Hosts Statewide High School Mathematics Contest](#)

[Assistant Professor Joshua Birchall \(Linguistics\) Named Finalist for Banco de Brasil's 13th Social Technology Award](#)

[Regents' Professor and Associate Chair Melinda Morgan \(Geography & Environmental studies\) Leads Special Feature in *Ecology and Society*](#)

[Saheed Oyeniran \(Physics & Astronomy\) elected as Student Member of the APS Four Corners Executive Committee.](#)

[Center for Southwest Studies Expands Access to Historic Spanish Archives](#)



Senior Lecturer Andrea L. Mays (Africana Studies) was recently interviewed on the Black Studies podcast. In this episode, she discusses her work on Black visual culture, Afrofuturism, and Black feminist thought, emphasizing how art functions as a site of resistance, refusal, and cultural production. The conversation highlights the importance of documenting everyday Black life and explores how Black Studies can be sustained and reimaged in a politically challenging moment.

[We invite you to listen to this interview here.](#)

Faculty from the Department of Africana Studies recently shared their scholarship at the 50th Annual Conference of the National Council for Black Studies (NCBS), held in Baltimore, Maryland, March 11-14, 2026. **Drs. Tryphenia Peele-Eady, Thayza Matos, Andrea L. Mays, and Assata Zerai** presented a panel titled “Black Studies as Praxis: Confronting Anti-Blackness across Campuses, Classrooms, Texts, and Community Archives.”

Assistant Professor Andrea Román Alfaro’s (Sociology & Criminology) paper “Life-crafting Pedagogy: Motherwork amid Violence at Peru’s Urban Margins” won the Elsa Chaney and Helen Safa Best Paper Award from the Gender and Feminist Studies section of the Latin American Studies Association. She also received funding from UNM’s Research Allocations Committee for her project, “Reframing the Urban Margins: Young People’s Perspectives on Violence, Social Inequality, and Persistence in Albuquerque’s International District”.

Distinguished Professor Lisa Broidy (Sociology & Criminology) was selected as the next UNM ADVANCE Director. She will begin in that role on July 1, 2026.

Distinguished Professor Tiffany S. Lee (Native American Studies) will receive the 2026 Mike Charleston Award for Distinguished Contributions to Research in Indigenous Education from the American Education Research Association (AERA) Indigenous Peoples of the Americas SIG.

Professor Nancy López (Sociology & Criminology) was selected to participate in the inaugural cohort of the Health Equity Works Speakers Bureau. The Health Equity Works Speakers Bureau is a network of trusted experts, practitioners and community leaders who serve as credible voices in moments of crisis and opportunity. She also organized a Latino Studies Association panel presenting RWJF-funded research on OMB, the Census, and innovative race measures, which was subsequently invited as a plenary session for the 2028 conference.

Kayla Martensen organized and chaired a panel titled “Emerging Abolitionist Research Across Institutional Contexts” for The World Social Science Association conference. She also received funding from UNM's Research Allocations Committee for her project, "Community-Academic Research Partnerships: Equitable Collaborations Toward Justice". Kayla co-authored two articles published in *ADVANCE Journal*, titled, "Collective Care, Creativity, and Feminist Scholarship at the ADVANCE Journal Retreat" and "Introduction to the First Special Issue of Behind Enemy Lines: Advancing the Work of Inclusion, Equity, and Justice in Precarious Times and Places".

Eli Wilson (Sociology & Criminology) co-authored an article in *Work & Occupations*, titled, "Balancing Acts: Composite Careers in Nashville's Music and Service Industries".

The 2026 Model Constitutional Convention accepted three **Political Science** students: Valeska Kubiak-Peralta, Nathan Sweeten, and Tatiana James. There were 330 applicants of which only 110 student delegates nationwide were accepted to participate in St. Louis this May.

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.

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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