



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

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# **WELCOME TO THE A&S NEWSLETTER**

## **MAY 2026 ISSUE**



## **UPCOMING A&S EVENTS**



**Save the Date: A&S Staff Appreciation Luncheon  
Monday, June 22 at 12 PM | SUB Ballroom**

## NEWS FROM A&S RESEARCH SUPPORT SERVICES

### [Forest Research for NM Water & Carbon Management \(FOR-NM\), Applications due May 31st](#)

The FOR-NM (Forest Research for NM Water and Carbon Management) Academy is a fully-funded, one-week intensive field course for 10 undergraduate students enrolled at New Mexico universities. Students work alongside faculty and researchers from across the state to develop practical skills in ecosystem monitoring, field data collection, remote sensing, and community-engaged science. The program dates are July 21-25, 2026 in Synergia Ranch, NM. Visit their website for more details. **Applications are due by May 31.**

### [Apply to be a URAD Student Ambassador for Fall 2026, Applications due June 5th, 2026](#)

Are you an undergraduate student who has been involved in faculty-mentored research for at least one semester at UNM and has presented at UROC? Are you interested in earning a stipend to promote research opportunities with fellow undergraduate students? If yes, then consider applying to join the team of URAD Ambassadors for Fall 2026! Please read the full description and follow the instructions for submitting your materials to [urad@unm.edu](mailto:urad@unm.edu) by **June 5th, 2026.**



## NEWS FROM THE ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR STUDENT SUCCESS

### Celebrating Student Success

As we come to the finish line of AY25, I wanted to share some progress on student success. Fall to spring persistence for our **most recent and largest ever 1st year cohort rose to 91.3% with significant narrowing of equity gaps since 2020. Third semester retention has climbed from 67.7% at the COVID low to 76.4%**, with trends suggesting another uptick for the Fall 2026 cohort. Four year and six year graduation rates have largely recovered, with the **2021 entering class nearing our previous high at 37.2% and the six year rate holding steady at 54.2%**. Students who graduate are completing degrees faster, now **averaging 4.5 years, down from more than 5.5 a decade ago**, reflecting better advising ratios and coordinated support. This Spring, we expect to graduate about **950 more students**.



Because almost every undergraduate student is served by our college, you can all take pride in this progress. Your efforts, along with those of our valued partners in Student Affairs and across the rest of UNM, are making a difference, thank you! There is, of course, still a lot of work to do, and excellent work continues with A&S leadership in GTA development, Elevate Gen Ed, curricular redesigns in several departments,

expanded faculty teaching support and promising progress in redesigning the introductory mathematics experience.

I love summer for its different pace and use it to catch up with new ideas in teaching and learning. This summer, I'll be listening to the following episodes of [Tea for Teaching](#), podcast:

**[442: Not Token Gestures](#)**: Dr. Roberta Hurtado discusses approaches to reduce equity gaps.

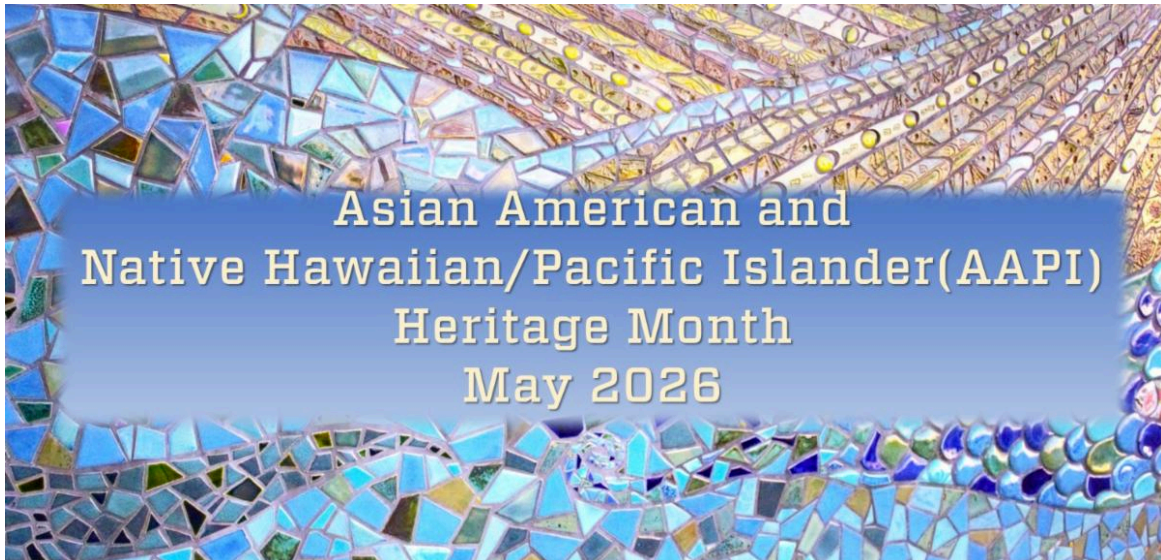
**[439: AI Pre-Mortem](#)**: Brookings Institution Director Rebecca Winthrop discusses a recent report summarizing the long-term benefits and risks associated with student use of Generative AI.

I'll also be reading [The Joyful Online Teacher– Finding our Fizz in Asynchronous Classes](#) by Flower Darby, and [The Caring University– Reimagining the Higher Education Workplace after the Great Resignation](#) by Kevin McClure. I'd love to chat about these when we're back together in the Fall, and feel free to send me your other recommendations.

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Several of our **outstanding advisors had the opportunity to present at the 2026 NACADA Region 7/Region 10 Conference**, showcasing their expertise and dedication to student success. Notably, for some of these advisors, this marked their first time presenting at a regional conference level growth. Congratulations to **Sara Shoemate, Ashley Busby, Natalia Covarrubias, Madi Castellano-Donovan, Richelle Gatchell, Jocelyn Ware, Sarah Peceny, Kristian Macaron, and Marlene Sanchez** for representing our institution with professionalism and insight. A special recognition goes to **Joanna Camacho Escobar**, who not only presented but also contributed her leadership skills by serving on the conference planning committee. Her involvement highlights the strength of our advising community and our continued commitment to excellence in the field.

## A&S ACADEMIC EVENTS

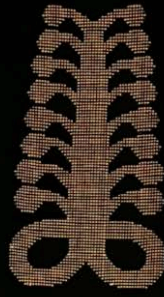


**NM** AFRICAN AMERICAN  
STUDENT SERVICES



# **AYA STOLING CEREMONY**

**NM**  
CLASS  
OF  
2026



AFRICAN  
AMERICAN  
STUDENT  
SERVICES  
SCHOLAR

**MAY 7, 2026  
SUB BALLROOMS  
6 PM-8 PM**

**SCAN TO  
SECURE  
YOUR SPOT!**



**DEADLINE TO RSVP IS APRIL 20**



The University of New Mexico Nanomaterials  
Characterization Facility and JEOL USA Inc., invite  
you to attend the

# WORKSHOP

## IN ADVANCED ELECTRON MICROSCOPY & 4D-STEM TECHNIQUES

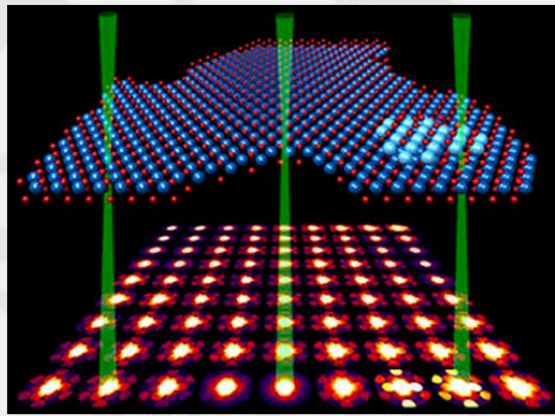


Image source [https://github.com/py4dstem/py4dstem\\_tutorials/blob/main/images/schematic4DSTEM.png](https://github.com/py4dstem/py4dstem_tutorials/blob/main/images/schematic4DSTEM.png)

**JUNE**  
10<sup>TH</sup> - 11<sup>TH</sup>  
2026

**UNM** PAIS Building  
210 YALE BLV NE  
ALBUQUERQUE, NM

We will have Discussions on Applications and Data  
Processing with speakers from:  
Jeol USA Inc, Gatan Ametek, LANL, CINT, and UNM

**SPOTS ARE LIMITED**

SECURE YOUR SPOT BY REGISTERING BEFORE MAY 20<sup>TH</sup> 2026  
Visit <https://ncf.unm.edu/events.html> or use this QR code to register



## FREE EVENT

The Nanomaterials Characterization Facility (NCF) at the University of New Mexico, in partnership with JEOL USA Inc., is organizing a Workshop in Advanced Electron Microscopy techniques, mainly focused on expanding interest in utilizing 4D-STEM electron microscopy techniques for nano-analysis of strategically important technological materials.

The workshop will take place on June 10th and 11th at the Physics, Astronomy, and Interdisciplinary Sciences (PAIS) building (main University of New Mexico Campus 210 Yale Blvd NE, Albuquerque NM, 87106).

Please note that there is no cost associated with the registration and attendance. However, the number of spots is limited because only a limited number of attendees can be accommodated.

**[Secure your spot by registering before May 20th, 2026.](#)** Notification of acceptance will be sent no later than May 25th.

For general questions, please email [ncf@unm.edu](mailto:ncf@unm.edu) or visit [here](#) to learn more.

## A&S IN THE NEWS

**[The College of Arts & Sciences](#)**  
**[Hosts Humanities & Social Sciences](#)**  
**[Building Site Blessing](#)**

**[Professor David Stuart's](#)**  
**[\(Anthropology\) New Book, \*Ancient Women Gardeners: Prelude to the Chacoan World\*, Receives Top Honor from Choice Reviews](#)**

**[Undergraduate Student Riley Jones \(Anthropology\)](#)**  
**[Receives UNM OVPR Deborah Rifenburg Memorial Undergraduate Globally-Engaged Research Award](#)**

**[Department of Anthropology](#)**  
**[Receives \\$50,000 Hibben Trust Support to Offset NSF Funding Loss](#)**

**[Distinguished Professor Yemane Asmerom \(Earth & Planetary Sciences\)](#)**  
**[Elected to the American Academy of Arts & Sciences](#)**

**[Doctoral Candidate Esteban Rangel \(Anthropology\)](#)**  
**[Receives U.S. Student Fullbright-García Robles Research Award](#)**



[Associate Professor Kathy Powers \(Africana Studies\) Presents on Trustworthy AI Policy at Tech Days 2026](#)

[Ph.D. Candidate Ismael Mireles \(Astronomy\) Leads Research on Rapidly Evolving Planetary System](#)



[Biology and Earth & Planetary Sciences Faculty Awarded National Grant to Study Drought Impacts in the Rio Grande](#)

[Randee Brant \(Languages, Cultures & Literatures\) Awarded Critical Language Scholarship](#)

[Distinguished Professor Lisa Broidy \(Sociology & Criminology\) Named Next Director of ADVANCE](#)

[Ph.D. Candidate Christina Lorenzatto \(Anthropology\) Awarded Wenner-Gren Dissertation Fieldwork Grant](#)

[Department of English Hosts Medieval Association of the Pacific Conference](#)

[Arts & Sciences Graduate Programs Earn National Rankings Across Disciplines](#)

- Biological Sciences — #92 (tie)
- Chemistry — #111 (tie)
- Clinical Psychology — #53 (tie)
- Earth Sciences — #58 (tie)
- Economics — #105 (tie)
- English — #80 (tie)
- History — #56 (tie)
- Mathematics — #93 (tie)
- Physics — #73 (tie)
- Political Science — #74 (tie)
- Psychology — #107 (tie)
- Sociology — #71 (tie)
- Statistics — #78

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**Professor Tiffany Bouelle (English)** was selected as a Fulbright U.S. Scholar for 2026-2027 for France.

**Associate Professor Manuel García y Griego (History)** co-organized a Spanish-language webinar for the Mexican Council on Foreign Relations (Comexi) examining the macroeconomic impacts of U.S. immigration enforcement.



**Associate Professor Kathy Powers (Africana Studies)** spoke at Bosque School on “The Politics of Race and Data,” encouraging students to critically examine who counts populations, how data is shaped by power, and why it matters for policy. She later led an “AI and You” workshop for seventh graders, introducing AI literacy and prompting students to consider political implications and potential algorithmic harms. Powers is also a core member of UNM’s Trustworthy AI Grand Challenge, an interdisciplinary initiative to develop AI systems that are both mathematically and practically trustworthy across real-world contexts.

**Associate Professor Catherine R. Rhodes (Anthropology)** was selected as the 2026 Globally-Engaged Research Award recipient from the UNM Office of the Vice President for Research.

**Meagan Schwartz (Dean's Office)** was selected as the runner-up for the UNM Student Employee of the Year Award.

**Professors Naomi Shin & Rosa Vallejos (Linguistics)** were awarded a National Science Foundation supplement to their NSF grant, “The Effect of Interlocutor Distance in the Grammars of Bilingual Communities.”

**Principal Lecturer Peng Yu (Languages, Cultures & Literatures)** will lead UNM students on a 10-day study abroad program in Taiwan May 18–28, 2026, where they will study Mandarin and Taiwanese culture at Chung Yuan Christian University. The program is expected to boost students’ language proficiency and intercultural competency while strengthening UNM’s growing partnerships with universities across Taiwan, including its newest partner, CYCU.

## SPRING 2026 NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

Don't forget to share your unit or departmental awards for our last newsletter of the Spring 2026 semester.

**May Issue (Part 2–Awards Edition)**

Submit by Wednesday, May 13 | Publishes Wednesday, May 20

**Summer Issue**

Submit by Wednesday, July 8 | Publishes July 15

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

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