

*Click the banner at the top of this email and select 'Download Pictures'
or 'Show Images' if images don't automatically display*

WELCOME TO THE A&S NEWSLETTER

MAY 2026 ISSUE AWARDS EDITION



HSS Site Blessing Recap on UNM News



Leaders, faculty, staff, and students at The University of New Mexico gathered on April 28th to bless the land where the future Humanities & Social Sciences (HSS) building will be constructed and to share what they hope students will find there.

The ceremony opened with a song and prayer for the land and the people who will use the building over the coming century, offered by Warlance Chee (Diné), a UNM American Studies alumnus and director of Saad K'idilyé, a Diné language learning nest.

President Garnett Stokes, who will end her eight-year term as UNM president this summer, said the HSS building "will invite creativity, innovation, and dialogue across disciplines that will extend beyond campus with public gathering spaces and a design that reflects the diverse cultural heritage of New Mexico."

[Learn More at UNM News](#)

Reminder: A&S Staff Appreciation Luncheon

**A&S Staff Appreciation
Luncheon
June 22 at 12 PM
SUB Ballroom C**

RSVP by June 15



**Marshall Awards for Course Development &
Curriculum Enhancement**

This award honors Diane L. Marshall's career-long commitment to improving the classroom experience of UNM students.

Olga Basharina, Lecturer II of Russian, Department of Languages, Cultures & Literatures

Developing a new course: RUSS 340T: Nations within Nations, Indigenous Peoples and Decolonial Futures in the Russian and Post-Soviet World.

Francis-Yan Cyr-Racine, Associate Professor, Department of Physics & Astronomy

Redesigning a current course offering: PHYS 301: Thermodynamics and Statistical Mechanics.

Andrea Román Alfaro, Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology & Criminology

Creating a new course: SOCI 418: Immigration, Criminalization and Justice.

**William P. & Heather Weber Award
for Teaching Excellence**

The Weber Award recognizes lecturers and part-time instructors who have demonstrated outstanding instructional contributions in undergraduate science and mathematics education through excellence in teaching, mentorship, and curricular innovation.



Amanda L. Stanfield
Senior Lecturer III
Department of Biology

College of Arts & Sciences Assessment Grants

The A&S Assessment Grants provide support for innovative work to improve assessment in Departments and Programs in the College of Arts and Sciences.

Francisco J. Galarte, Associate Professor, Department of American Studies and Department of Women, Gender & Sexuality Studies: Graduate program assessment in American Studies

Jessica T. Feezell, Associate Professor, Political Science & Jami Nelson-Nuñez, Associate Professor & Chair, Political Science: Undergraduate program assessment in Political Science

Kate Cartwright, Director and Associate Professor, School of Public Administration: Assessment in the Master of Health Administration (MHA) program.

ASSURE 2026-2027 Awards

The ASSURE award supports faculty-student research collaborations that engage undergraduate students in meaningful and increasingly sophisticated work integral to the principal investigator's broader research program.

Misa Bloom (Liberal Arts/ School of Public Administration)— AI Implementation in Municipal Public Administration Through an Effective, Sustainable and Ethical Manner in NM. Mentor: Elizabeth Perez-Chiques.

Molly Boone (Languages, Cultures, & Literatures)— Developing a Lexical Database for an Indigenous Amazonian Language. Mentor: Rosa Vallejos Yopan.

Seeun Choi (Economics)— Healthcare Workforce and Nursing Retention in NM.

Andrew Klein (Physics & Astronomy)— Characterization and Performance Optimization of Trenched 3D Silicon Detectors. Mentor: Sally Seidel.

Brandy Menahem (Biology)— Habitat Suitability and Ecology of Peripheral Plants in NM. Mentor: Diana Gamba.

Marylene Mey (Psychology)— Does Anxiety Independently Shape the Brain's Reward Signal. Mentor: James Cavanagh.

Mentor: Brady Horn.

Olivia Cole (Anthropology)— *Does Non-Average Height Make It Harder to Estimate Sex Using Bony Measurements.* Mentor: Osbjorn Pearson.

Quil del Villar Weguin (Linguistics)— *Cognition in Spanish-English Bilingual Children in New Mexico.* Mentor: Naomi Shin.

Kellen Eisner (History)— *Atomic Influences: Gendered Impacts on Navajo Uranium Miners in the Atomic Age.* Mentor: Katherine Massoth.

Samuel Goodrow (Chemistry & Chemical Biology)— *Nucleic Acid Structure Regulated Phase Transitions in Gene Expression.* Mentor: Anisha Shakya.

Izuru Hayama (Economics)— *Emissions Trading System in NM.* Mentor: Andrew Goodkind.

La Ban Hendricks (Linguistics)— *Hand Talk Collaborative - Native Signed Language Revitalization.* Mentor: Jill Morford.

Evelyn Kill (Speech & Hearing Sciences)— *Training in Echolalia Measurement: Supporting Systematic Review, Behavioral Coding and Tool Development.* Mentor: Cindy Gevarter.

Jenny Nguyen (Psychology)— *Using Advanced Quantitative Methods to Identify Critical Predictors of Substance Use in NM Youth to Inform Prevention.* Mentor: Matthew Pearson.

Shakkri Ortega (Sociology & Criminology)— *Reframing the Urban Margins: Young People's Perspectives on Violence, Social Inequality and Persistence in ABQ's International District.* Mentor: Andrea Roman-Alfaro.

Jessica Romero (Speech & Hearing Sciences)— *Regional, Hispanophone Public Humanities: Connecting Research to Community.* Mentor: Anna Nogar.

Allison Shaver (Physics & Astronomy)— *Improving the Detection of Exoplanet Transits Using Machine Learning.* Mentor: Diana Dragomir.

Isaac Suarez Flint (American Studies)— *Scattered Records, Structured Absences: Towards a Trans Archive of NM.* Mentor: Francisco Galarte.

Trinity Swisher (Biology)— *Hepatozoon Blood Parasites and Their Association With Bd Infections in Frogs.* Mentor: Lisa Barrow.

Francesca Vogel Castillo (Earth & Planetary Sciences/ Geography & Environmental Studies)— *Analyzing Sediment Runoff and Its Effects on Harmful Algae Blooms in Yukon Delta.* Mentor: Marisa Repasch.

Recently Funded Projects

Joshua B. Grubbs (Psychology)— *Graduate Research Fellowship Proposal for the American Institute for Boys and Men.* Sponsored by American Institute for Boys and Men.

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

Esteban H. Muldavin (Biology)— *NM Rapid Assessment Methodology Training Videos and Volunteer Certification Project*. Sponsored by New Mexico Environment Department.

Sherry V. Nelson (Anthropology)— *How Does Access to Social Support Affect Stress Responses?* Sponsored by Leakey (Louis SB) Foundation.

William T. Pockman (Biology)— *REU Sites: Dryland Ecology and Biodiversity in the Northern Chihuahuan Desert*. Sponsored by National Science Foundation.

Tania A. Reynolds (Psychology)— *Do Victimhood Mindsets Exacerbate Suffering?* Sponsored by Centre for Heterodox Social Science at the University of Buckingham

Jane Ellen Smith (Psychology)— *UNM FIRST: Promoting Inclusive Excellence in Neuroscience and Data Science*. Sponsored by National Institutes of Health.

Cristina D. Takacs (Biology)— *U-RISE at The University Of New Mexico*. Sponsored by National Institutes of Health.

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

A&S Faculty & Departmental Accolades



Carmela M. Roybal, Executive Director of the **Native American Budget and Policy Institute (Center for Social Policy)** was promoted to Associate Director of Tribal

Affairs at the U.S. Health and Human Services in the Immediate Office of the Secretary (pictured above).

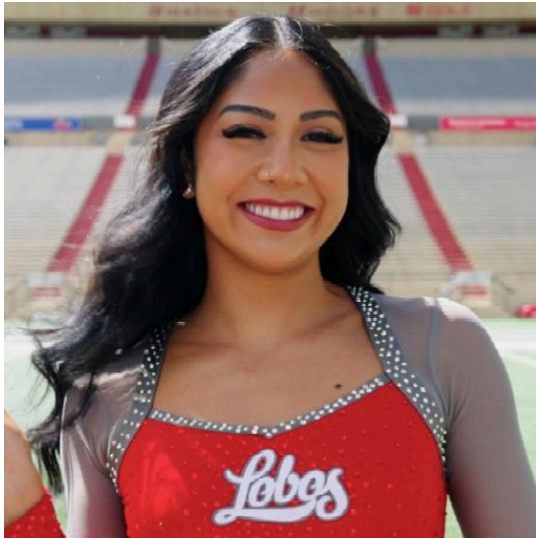
The Native American Budget and Policy Institute (Center for Social Policy) has been awarded the Tribal Education Technical Assistance Center by the State of New Mexico Higher Education Department.

Recent A&S Student & Alumni Recognition

[Congratulations to our A&S students selected for UNM's 2026 Inspiring Graduates:](#)



[Emily Notsinneh, BA Journalism & Mass Communications](#)



[Malia Dumlao, BA Organizational Communication](#)



[Mutazz Jaber, BA Political Science & Psychology](#)



[Dava Manes, BA Sociology; Minor in History](#)



[Rachel Swanteson-Franz, Juris Doctor; BA Biology](#)

[A&S Recipients of the 2026 Clauvé Outstanding Senior Award](#)

One of UNM's most prestigious honors for undergraduate students, the Clauvé Outstanding Senior Award celebrates seniors who excel academically while leaving a lasting impact on campus life through organizational involvement, leadership roles and service activities

Miriam Barba, BA Chicana & Chicano Studies and Political Science; Minor in Public Service

Hilaria Barragan, BA Psychology and Criminology; Minor in Honors

Kaia Begay, BA Psychology and Native American Studies

Bree Hawkins, BA Biology, Psychology, and Political Science

Mutazz Jaber, BA Political Science and Psychology

Anthony Languit, BA Biochemistry

Kiera Rosenfeld, BA Journalism & Mass Communications

Francesca Tuoni (English) was selected as the recipient of the [Tom L. Popejoy Dissertation Prize](#) for their dissertation, "Arabic into Middle English: Close Encounters of the Word Kind".

[Mathematics Undergraduates Earn Top Honors at 2026 Southwestern Undergraduate Mathematics Research Conference](#)

SUMMER 2026 NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

We invite you to share your unit or departmental awards, events and announcements for our upcoming newsletters:

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

Summer 2026 Semester

Summer Newsletter	
Submission Deadline	July 15
Publish Date	July 22

Fall 2026 Semester

August Newsletter	
Submission Deadline	August 13
Publish Date	August 20
September Newsletter	
Submission Deadline	August 26
Publish Date	September 2

October Newsletter	
Submission Deadline	September 30
Publish Date	October 7
November Newsletter	
Submission Deadline	October 28
Publish Date	November 4
December Newsletter	
Submission Deadline	November 19
Publish Date	December 2

Share Your News Here

University of New Mexico College of Arts & Sciences | 1 University of New Mexico Ortega
Hall 201 | Albuquerque, NM 87131 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!