



Inside the College of Arts & Sciences

Spring 2019

BE BOLD. Shape the Future.

A black and white photograph of an elderly man, Mark Medoff, sitting in a chair and looking off to the side. He is wearing a light-colored button-down shirt. The background is dark and out of focus.

REMEMBERING MARK MEDOFF

HIS LIFE. HIS WORK. HIS HEART.

Also Inside:

- Starry Night 2019 (Pg. 38)

- NMSU computer science ranks nationally in graduating, enrolling women (Pg. 54)

- NMSU scientists discover drug that could lead to new cancer treatments (Pg. 64)

Letter from the Dean

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

In the first semester of 2019, we celebrated breakthroughs and accomplishments. Among these is the graduation of the inaugural group of Honors College Conroy Scholars in May. We are proud that five of these seven Conroy Scholars earned their degrees in College of Arts and Sciences. The scholarship is named for William B. Conroy who served as NMSU President from 1997-2000. Thanks to the Conroy Scholars program, these students all graduated debt free and many have good jobs waiting for them.

I want to mention two computer science graduates among the Conroy Scholars group, Angela Kearns, who has a job at Nike, and Elena Davidson, who has a job at Qualcomm, because they and many others like them are the reason why a Chronicle of Higher Education analysis ranked NMSU 22nd among four-year public universities in the U.S. for enrolling and graduating women in computer science. This is the result of more than 12 years of work with the Young Women in Computing program. We began with a small grant to boost the number of women studying computer science at NMSU and today the program has directly impacted more than 13,000 students and the percentage of women enrolled in computer science at NMSU has tripled.



We're continuing to implement innovations for our students with the new Aggie Jumpstart program. Giving students a head start on college is the reason NMSU Vice President for Student Success Renay Scott and I joined together to create the Aggie Jumpstart program. Forty students will benefit from the eight-week course this summer to help them start the fall semester with skills that will put them on the path to success.

In the future, we have much to look forward to with the opening of our new art building Devasthali Hall as well as two new degree programs – a bachelor of science degree in cyber security and a professional master's degree in computational data analytics. The high demand for people trained in cyber security makes this an important program for NMSU to generate needed employees for New Mexico, but the master's in data analytics is also in demand in ways you may not have considered.

While new degrees and programs are attractive for our students, the most important factor is the effort and nurturing provided by our faculty and staff. The connection to our campus begins and ends with the personal touch of the people who make it their business to help each student succeed.

In April, we lost two prominent faculty members. Our cover story is about Mark Medoff, an internationally known playwright, whose many accomplishments included 51 years of service here at NMSU. A Tony Award-winning playwright, Oscar-nominated screenwriter and award-winning film director, Medoff leaves behind a legacy that will live on in every life he touched, every student he encouraged, every friend he supported and his family that he adored.

Just a couple of weeks after Mark Medoff died, Lee K. Abbot passed away. An English professor who grew up in Las Cruces and earned a degree from NMSU, Abbott left home and became a well-known short story writer, twice nominated for a Pulitzer Prize. He later returned to Las Cruces and taught at NMSU. Colleagues called Abbott a "master of the craft" who brought wisdom to the table for both students and faculty alike.

We want to remain part of your life after graduation. Follow me on Twitter @enricopontelli. You can also stay connected through our Facebook page or find out about the latest events and read articles about the college on our website. We are always pleased to hear from you so let us know what you think.

Thank you for your support of the College and for being a part of our Arts and Sciences community.

Enrico Pontelli
Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences

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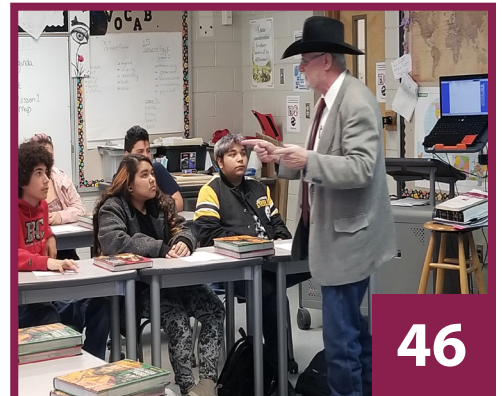
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MARK MEDOFF: HIS LIFE, HIS LEGACY IN FAMILY, STUDENTS, COMMUNITY



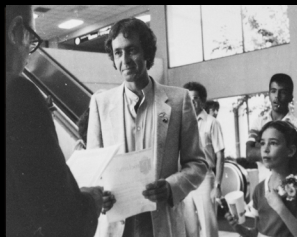
Mark and Stephanie Medoff, photographed in 2008. (Photo by Darren Phillips)

If Mark Medoff's impact on New Mexico State University and the city of Las Cruces could be measured, it would be by the way he lived, the way he taught and the way he wrote – with heart. At 79, Medoff died on April 23, surrounded by his family. On May 19, his friends, colleagues and admirers joined with his family to celebrate Medoff's life, sharing memories, songs and scenes from his plays. The memorial included actors, colleagues, family and friends, all of whom praised him not only for his talent as a writer, but also for his thoughtfulness as a teacher and his generosity as a human being. Please click on any of the clips on the following page to hear some of the tributes shared at his memorial.

[View the entire two-hour event here.](#)

[Read more about Mark Medoff's life and legacy here.](#)

Family and friends of acclaimed playwright, film and theater director, Mark Medoff, gathered at the Mark and Stephanie Medoff Theater at the ASNMUSU Center for the Arts on Sunday May 19, 2019 to honor and memorialize him. The event featured music, and theater readings, as well as words from close friends of his. (Photo by Paul Ratje)



Cover Story



Medoff's son-in-law and collaborator Ross Marks led the memorial, introducing speakers and performances and giving his own heartfelt remarks.



Medoff's wife Stephanie shared memories of her husband at his memorial service at the ASNMSU Center for the Arts.



By his request, at the memorial Mark Medoff's granddaughter Grace Marks sang her grandfather's favorite song "Desperado."



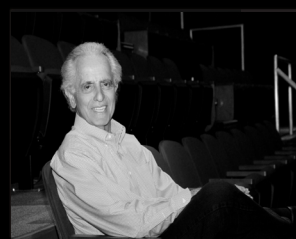
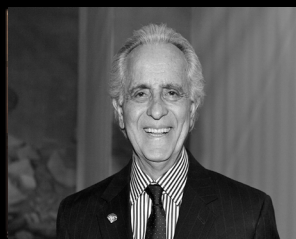
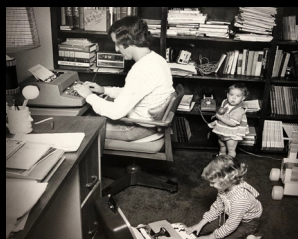
NM Gov. Michelle Lujan-Grisham read a proclamation for Mark Medoff Day to be celebrated each May 19th



NMSU Chancellor Dan Arvizu spoke at the memorial for Mark Medoff with a large crowd at the ASNMSU Center for the arts..



NMSU Creative Media Institute department Head Amy Lanasa recalls the genius of Medoff as a teacher and mentor.



Finding passion as a patent judge



Devon Zastrow Newman cloned her first gene as an undergraduate in biochemistry at New Mexico State University. Newman credits her research experiences with her successful career as a patent attorney and trial lawyer in Oregon and now as an administrative patent judge.

“NMSU gave me a solid foundation in science and taught me how to think like a scientist,” Newman said. “While I continued to improve this skill in graduate school, the foundation I obtained at NMSU allows me to pick up a patent application and figure out what the invention is and how it works. I use the skills I learned at NMSU daily in my work.”

An Albuquerque native, Newman used her full tuition scholarship as one of the top 10 percent in high school to take her talent for science to NMSU where she earned both a bachelor’s of science biochemistry and a bachelor of arts in chemistry. After earning a master’s degree in bio-medical sciences at the University of Colorado and a law degree from Cornell Law School, and passing the patent bar exam, she became a patent at-

torney and trial lawyer in Portland, Oregon. Most recently, she joined the U.S. Patent and Trademark Patent Trial and Appeal Board.

“As much as I loved science, I felt I did not want a career in research science,” Newman reflected. “Patent law provided the opportunity for me to learn many different areas of science in depth, to write extensively and to work with interesting people and companies in the litigation arena. In my opinion, intellectual property is the best field of law. “

A regional director at the U.S. Patent Office recruited Newman to apply for a position as an administrative patent judge. Newman trained at the PTO office in California, and now works remotely from Oregon.

“I was excited to work from inside the system at the U.S. Patent Office to ensure good patents are issued and invalid patents are cancelled,” Newman explained. “I also enjoy working as a public servant after so many years in private practice.”

Art alumnus' work on display in UCLA School of Dentistry

By Matthew Legarreta

"15 Visions," a collection of paintings from Las Cruces artist and New Mexico State University alumnus George Mendoza, will now grace the halls of the University of Los Angeles' School of Dentistry.

The collection features 15 unique pieces spanning over two decades of Mendoza's artistic career. But the number 15 also serves a dual purpose for Mendoza, as it marks the age that he began losing his eyesight to juvenile macular degeneration.

Mendoza's condition has eroded away most of his central vision, leaving him with what he describes as "kaleidoscope eyes." But it's through this lens that Mendoza, who graduated from the individualized studies program at NMSU in 1978, is allowed to create his unique works.

"I'm what they would consider an 'abstract artist,'" said Mendoza. "Mostly because of my partial blindness, I'm not able to paint in much detail. So my art itself becomes very abstract, very colorful, and 'whimsical,' as it has been described."



Artist and NMSU alumnus George Mendoza at the Manhattan Eye, Ear, and Throat Hospital during the installation of his last art collection, "26 Visions." (Courtesy photo)



Two of the paintings featured in the newly installed "15 Visions" collection at UCLA's School of Dentistry.

To celebrate the installment of this new collection, a reception in Mendoza's honor took place at the UCLA School of Dentistry on Monday, April 9.

[Read more...](#)

Alumni News

NMSU's 'News22' provides critical hands-on experience for alumni success

By Mathew Legarreta



The El Paso KTSM weather team (left to right): Monica Cortez, Celina Quintana, and Jessica Nevarez. All three are NMSU graduates who worked in the university's News22 broadcasting program. (Courtesy Photo: KTSM)

El Paso native Monica Cortez planned to be a newspaper reporter when she started studying journalism at New Mexico State University. Then she got involved in NMSU's "News22" program and by the time she graduated in 2013 she had two years experience in day-to-day TV news. She immediately got a part-time job at KTSM-TV and worked her way up.

Today, Cortez is the chief meteorologist for KTSM news in El Paso.

"I don't think I would be where I am today, if it wasn't for the guidance from Nick Miller and the experience News22 provided to me," said Cortez. "While working at News 22 was stressful, I truly loved it. Because, at the end of the day, it's all about how much work and dedication you put into it, in order to make your dreams come true."

Cortez isn't the only one. The rest of the weather team at KTSM-TV includes NMSU graduates Celina Quintana, an El Paso native who joined the staff a few months ago, and Jessica Nevarez, a Las Cruces native who has worked at the station since early 2018.

"The program gave me the opportunity to do a live broadcast prior to being hired at KTSM," said Nevarez. "This is something that I didn't realize would set me apart from other students that came from other university programs."

Alumni News

In the past decade alone, more than 40 students who got their start at “News22” have gone on to establish careers in journalism and broadcasting, working for outlets across the country.

“News22 is the best learning environment that a student could possibly have,” said Ryan Rieker, who now serves as a Master Control Operator for ESPN’s Los Angeles office. “It’s an amazing real-life experience, and I don’t think I would have had it if News22 wasn’t a live show that aired multiple times a week.”

“News22” is broadcast live three times a week during the fall and spring semesters. Airing at 6:30 p.m. on KRWG-TV, the student news program follows the principles and schedules of a working, professional newsroom – something that “News22” director Nick Miller, who himself comes from nearly 20 years of experience as an anchor at KTSM, is keenly aware of. Emphasizing the merits of hands-on experience, the program provides aspiring journalists and broadcasters at NMSU an advantage over other university’s graduates who don’t get this level of practice before they apply for a job.

“When they leave here, they know what they are doing,” said Miller, who also serves as an assistant professor at NMSU’s Department of Journalism and Media Studies. “Not many universities have a real honest-to-goodness live TV newscast. We do.”

[Read more...](#)



Marlenn Barraza, who began her broadcasting career at News22, now works for El Paso’s KTSM as a photojournalist. (Courtesy photo)



Dan Martinez, a News22 alum, is now part of the ABC-7 StormTrack weather team out of El Paso, TX. (Courtesy photo)



Stephanie Bennett, a News22 alum, is now a General Assignment Reporter at KATV in Little Rock, AR. (Courtesy photo)



Gina Palombit, a News22 alum, now works as a Media & Communications Coordinator at White Sands Missile Range. (Courtesy photo)

Mailhot wins prestigious award for memoir

College of Arts and Sciences alumna Terese Marie Mailhot was awarded the 2019 Whiting Award in Non-Fiction for her book, New York Times bestseller “Heart Berries.” Mailhot, who graduated from New Mexico State University with a bachelor’s degree in English in 2013, wrote “Heart Berries” to tell the story of her life as an indigenous woman coming-of-age on the Seabird Island Band in the Pacific Northwest.



Mailhot previously spoke about “Heart Berries” during a segment on “The Daily Show with Trevor Noah.”

“Terese Marie Mailhot’s nimble, jarring work is one of the most important memoirs of the last five years.”



whiting
AWARDS 2019

TERESE MARIE MAILHOT

WHITING AWARD 2019 WINNER

IN NONFICTION

The Whiting Award is presented by The Whiting Foundation, which gives support to 10 emerging writers annually in fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and drama. (Courtesy photo)

Alumnus holds photo exhibition at El Paso International Museum of Art

Alejandro Lugo, a College of Arts and Sciences alumnus of the Department of Anthropology and 2019 Starry Night honoree, hosted a month long photo exhibition at the El Paso International Museum of Art during the spring semester.

The exhibition, titled “De Espaldas/Scenes from the Back,” ran at the museum from March 1 to March 31. Lugo also hosted a discussion about the photos featured in the exhibit during a talk on March 17.

In the lead up to the exhibit’s opening, Lugo was a featured guest on the noon edition of El Paso’s KVIA news, Channel 7.



The release poster for “De Espaldas/Scenes from the Back,” a photo exhibition from NMSU alumnus Alejandro Lugo. (Courtesy photo)



Lugo appeared on KVIA Channel 7 to discuss “De Espaldas/Scenes from the Back.”



Artist Madison Manning. (Courtesy Photo)

Manning contributes to Brooklyn art gallery exhibition

Madison Manning, a 2018 M.F.A. graduate of the Department of Art, had her work selected as part of “Lesbian Matters,” a participatory art project hosted at the Trestle Gallery in Brooklyn, New York.

Currated by artist Phoenix Lindsay-Hall, the show collected objects, stories, and personal artifacts in order to create a collective snapshot of a contemporary lesbian life.



Other objects and art featured in “Lesbian Matters.” (Courtesy photo)

Velarde appointed to NMBA board of directors

By Victoria Balderrama



KRWG Public Media General Manager Adrian Velarde has been appointed to the New Mexico Broadcasters Association board of directors. (Courtesy photo)

New Mexico State University KRWG Public Media General Manager Adrian Velarde has been appointed to the New Mexico Broadcasters Association board of directors.

The NMBA is a nonprofit corporation that has been chartered by the state of New Mexico since 1951, and membership includes radio and television stations.

“I’m thrilled to be involved with the NMBA and to bring Public Media’s unique voice to the board,” said Velarde. “As a student, I was fortunate enough to receive the NMBA Scholarship. I’m excited to be able to give back to the organization that helped me as a student.”

The NMBA’s key responsibilities are to assist its members with general and broadcast-specific business challenges through educational seminars, legal hotlines and grassroots lobbying. There also are additional opportunities to receive industry specific assistance, locate and network with fellow broadcasters.

Velarde is an NMSU alumnus who graduated from the Department of Journalism and Mass Communications in 1993. His career spans more than 25 years combined in broadcast and cable. He returned to Las Cruces in 2009 to accept the director of broadcast operations position at KRWG. He was named general manager in 2018.

Baranowski wins APA Award



Kim Baranowski earned her bachelor's degree of fine arts at NMSU in 1995. (Courtesy Photo)

Kim Baranowski recently received the 2018 Citizen Psychologist Award from the American Psychological Association for her sustained commitment to supporting survivors of human rights violations.

To promote the rights and psychological health of asylum seekers—many of them survivors of torture—she provides pro bono forensic evaluations that document the psychological abuse, while training other clinicians in these methods and mentoring students to conduct research on how human rights violations affect refugee well-being.

The Citizen Psychologist Initiative recognizes APA members who engage their communities through public service, volunteerism and board membership.

After receiving her bachelor's degree of fine arts in sculpture from NMSU, she went on to earn a master's degree in fine arts at another university. She worked as a professional artist in New York for several years while pursuing advanced degrees in counseling psychology. Currently, she is the Faculty Director of Research at Mt. Sinai Hospital's Human Rights Program and is a lecturer at

Devasthalis receive honorary doctorate

NMSU alumna and current NMSU regent Ammu Devasthali was awarded an honorary degree during the fall 2018 commencement ceremony. Devasthali received an honorary doctorate of fine arts alongside her husband, Ramakrishna Devasthali, who was granted an honorary doctorate of science.

Ammu earned two previous master's degrees from NMSU, and was appointed a regent of the university in February 2019. With her husband, she has set up two endowments at NMSU, one for KRWG-FM and another in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry. Both are active in fundraising for the arts at NMSU and were very involved in helping raise money to support the construction of what will be Devasthali Hall, NMSU's new facility to house the Department of Art and University Art Museum



Ramakrishna and Ammu Devasthali receive their honorary degrees from President John Floros and Chancellor Dan Arvizu. (Courtesy photo)

New Mexico's first female U.S. Marshal reflects on her NMSU roots

By Matthew Legarreta

From covering news stories in the rural Southwest to investigating gangs on the city streets of Chicago, Sonya Chavez has had quite the professional journey over the past three decades. That journey reached a new milestone in April 2018, when Chavez was selected as the new U.S. Marshal for the state of New Mexico. But, it was her time as a journalism student at NMSU that launched it all for her.

"The entire NMSU experience was absolutely a positive one for me," says Chavez, who is the first woman to be appointed to the role of U.S. Marshal in state history. "The background that I got at NMSU really helped me develop as a professional in so many ways."

Chavez grew up in Moriarty, a small town in central New Mexico. When it came to selecting where she would go to college, Chavez's choice was clear.

"I was interested in pursuing a career in journalism, and I knew NMSU had a great journalism program," she says.

After graduating from NMSU, Chavez worked around the southwest as a broadcast journalist. Chavez, then, transitioned into her long-time career investigating gang activity for the FBI.



Sonya Chavez, New Mexico's first female U.S. Marshal, grew her investigative roots at NMSU studying journalism. (Courtesy photo)



Sonya Chavez (second from left, first row) with her fellow members of Delta Zeta sorority in 1987. (Photo from NMSU Library Archives)

"In some ways, it was a culture shock, because I didn't have a background in law enforcement," says Chavez. "But I discovered there were a lot of similarities in my journalism background and the FBI. When you're interviewing someone, you are either doing it to gather evidence or to get a confession. And that rapport building, I already knew how to do that. Little did I know, as a young journalist doing interviews in the cornfields of West Texas, that all that was preparing me in ways that I would not even appreciate until much later."

[Read more...](#)

Faculty News

2019 SPRING CONVOCATION AWARDS



New Mexico State University Chancellor Dan Arvizu, far left, President John Floros, fourth from right, and interim Provost April Mason, far right, congratulate faculty and staff who were honored during the university's spring convocation ceremony Jan. 15. (NMSU photo by Josh Bachman.)

College of Arts and Sciences faculty were among those honored at the 2019 Spring Convocation at NMSU's Atkinson Recital Hall on Jan. 15. Every fall and spring, convocation is held to honor excellence on campus. Fourteen faculty were honored this year, including three faculty from the College of Arts and Sciences.

Motoko Furuhashi, an assistant professor in the department of art, was a recipient of the University Research Council Award for exceptional achievement in creative scholarly activity. Meanwhile, Shaun H. Cooper, an assistant professor at the computer science department, and Kim Seckler, an associate professor in the department of government, were both chosen for the Donald C. Roush Excellence in Teaching Award.

Faculty News



Motoko Furuhashi in the Department of Art, one of the University Research Council Award for Exceptional Achievements in Creative Scholarly Activity award recipients standing with New Mexico State University's Chancellor Dan Arvizu and President John Floros, Tuesday January 15, 2018 at Atkinson Music Recital Hall. (Photo by Josh Bachman)

Kim Seckler, with the Government department in the college of Arts and Sciences, one of the Donald C. Roush Award recipients standing with New Mexico State University's Chancellor Dan Arvizu and President John Floros, Tuesday January 15, 2018 at Atkinson Music Recital Hall. (Photo by Josh Bachman)



Shaun H. Cooper, from the Computer Science College of Arts and Sciences, one of the Donald C. Roush Award recipients standing with New Mexico State University's Chancellor Dan Arvizu and President John Floros, Tuesday January 15, 2018 at Atkinson Music Recital Hall. (Photo by Josh Bachman)

Faculty News

Physics, Government professors awarded



At the NMSU Aggie Women's basketball game on January 17, Neil Harvey, NMSU government professor was honored as an "Outstanding Aggie" for his accomplishments as a researcher. Vice President for Research Luis Cifuentes and Interim Provost April Mason presented the award along with Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences Enrico Pontelli. Harvey's wife Maria was also on hand to celebrate her husband's recognition.



Faculty News

arded NMSU research awards

On Feb. 7, NMSU President John Floros and Vice President for Research Cifuentes presented physics professors Vassiliou Papavassiliou Stephen Pate with a special award for their research. The presentation recognized the research accomplishments of Dr. Pate and Dr. Papavassiliou, who led the NMSU High-Energy Nuclear Physics team in the College of Arts and Sciences.



Professor O'Leary interviewed on NPR

Beth O'Leary, NMSU anthropology professor emerita, was interviewed February 21 on National Public Radio's Morning Edition as the upcoming 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 moon landing approaches. She talks about preserving artifacts on the moon.



Shuster wins Innovative Teaching Award



Shuster being awarded the Truly Innovative Teaching Award from (TC). (Courtesy photo)

Michele Shuster, a professor in the Department of Biology, was the recipient of this year's Truly Innovative Teaching Award from the Teaching Academy. The award was established in 2014 in memory of Harry and Jenny Truly by Elise "Pookie" and Michael Sautter. The award is presented to an NMSU educator (full-time, part-time, or graduate student) from any NMSU campus who has made an innovation in teaching that has positively impacted student attitude, motivation, or learning.

Theatre professor directs play in New York City

Larissa Lury, an assistant professor in the NMSU theatre department, traveled to New York city this past semester to direct a play at the historic Cherry Lane Theatre. The play, "Three Girls Never Learnt The Way Home," told the story of three friends who find themselves in the center of a mysterious encounter which ignites a panic through the streets.

The play was part of the Obie Award-winning Mentor Project, which each year partners an emerging author with a seasoned professional for a year of script work, rewrites, casting, rehearsals and a full production at Cherry Lane theatre.



NMSU Theatre assistant professor Larissa Lury (Courtesy photo)

Before it's off-broadway debut, "Three Girls Never Learnt The Way Home" was workshopped by students at NMSU as part of the High Desert Play Development Workshop. It ran at the Cherry Lane Theatre from March 13 until March 23.

Music professor releases new album



NMSU music professor Jim Shearer (Courtesy photo)

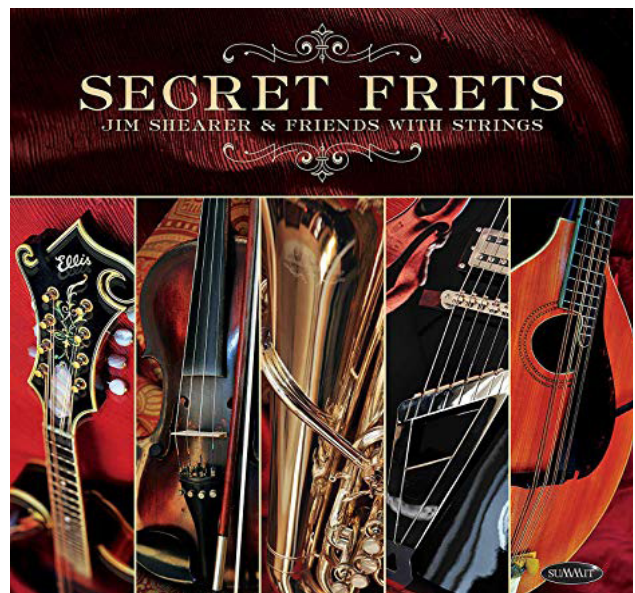
NMSU music professor Jim Shearer released a new album this past March featuring his work on the tuba, alongside a collection of friends and collaborators performing the other instruments.

Entitled “Secret Frets,” the album was released on CD via the Summit recording label. Featuring an unlikely teaming of tuba with guitar, mandolin and violin, “Secret Frets” was a culmination of more than 22 years of work.

It all started with a pick-up band that came together to focus on the music of Django Reinhardt. The band went through several permutations of name, including the unwieldy “Hot Club of the Southwest” and the even more unpronounceable “Djangology,” which was finally shorted to simply “Django.” The group was somewhat unusual to say the least. It featured Steve Smith on mandolin; Gordon Butler on violin; Joseph Mancilla, acoustic rhythm guitar; Curt Warren, electric arch-top guitar; and NMSU’s Jim Shearer, performing both the tuba and vocals.

The band played a series of shows, festivals, and club dates during the 1990s, which culminated with the band recording most of the tracks featured on this current project. The sessions were set, and they were recorded to two DA-88 ADAT machines (early multi-track digital recording equipment) at Goldust Recording Studio in Las Cruces. The funding was not enough to complete the project, so the tapes went on the shelf in a half mixed, unmastered state. Time passed, the musicians went on to other projects, and the sessions were largely forgotten, except for a few dusty cassette tapes of rough mixes showing “what might have been.”

In 2016, Smith was working at Goldust Studio on another project, and owner/engineer Emmitt Brooks showed Steve some new techniques he had developed to move material out of the old ADAT format into a modern digital editing program called “Digital Performer,” an industry standard for today’s recording needs. Some of the tracks he transferred included material from the old Django sessions. The spark was reignited, and the project was finally completed.



The cover of “Secret Frets,” released this past March from NMSU professor Jim Shearer.. (Courtesy photo)

Philosophy professor co-edits ethics book



NMSU philosophy professor Lori Keleher (Courtesy photo)

New Mexico State University philosophy professor Lori Keleher co-edited a new book released through Cambridge University Press in April.

“Agency and Democracy in Development Ethics” is a collection of essays honoring David Crocker, a pioneering scholar in the field of development ethics.

“Stacy Kosko and I were hoping to honor David by making a true contribution to the field that he pioneered, in a way that reflects not only the high-quality academic work his own contributions inspired, but also his personal talent and commitment to bringing diverse voices into discussion with one another, for the benefit of all,” said Keleher.

Keleher and her co-editor, University of Maryland professor Stacy J. Kosko, gathered together the thoughts of the top thinkers in the field

-- philosophers, economists, policy and development scholars and practitioners -- all of whom were inspired by Crocker’s ideas about ethical ways to ensure development decisions and actions are more democratic, and promote the agency of local people.

In addition to editing the book, Keleher also penned the book’s first chapter, entitled “Why Development Needs Philosophy.”

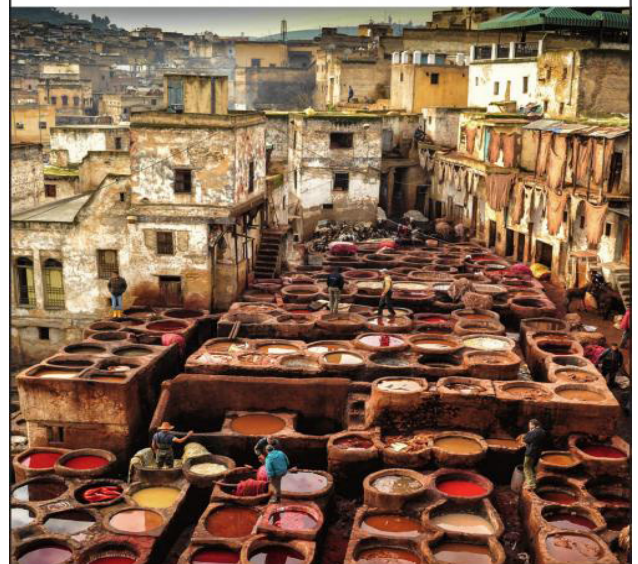
“We are really proud of the book,” Keleher continued. “The essays each make rich contributions to the field, but when read together, especially with Crocker’s two chapters responding to the contributors, they advance the field in a significant way.”

This is Keleher’s second co-edited book on development ethics this year. The first book, “Routledge Handbook of Development Ethics,” co-edited with Jay Drydyk, is described as codifying and advancing the field of development ethics.

[Read more...](#)

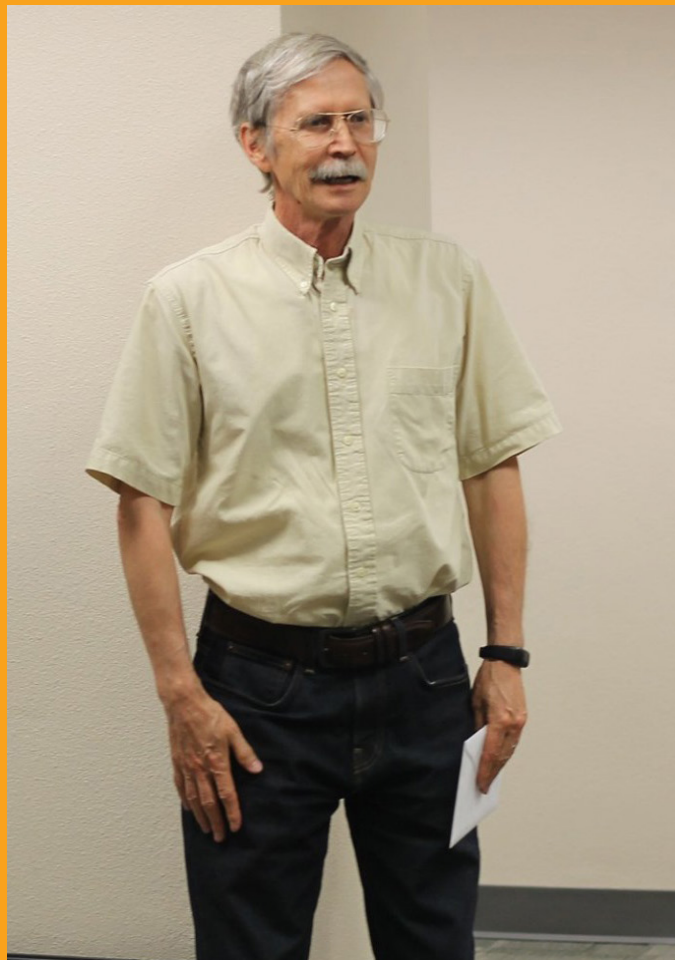
Agency and Democracy in Development Ethics

Edited by Lori Keleher
and Stacy J. Kosko



The cover of “Agency and Democracy in Development Ethics.” The book, co-edited by NMSU professor Lori Keleher, was released in April 2019. (Courtesy Photo University of Maryland)

Astronomy professor retires after 25 years



On May 8, the NMSU Astronomy Department celebrated the retirement of Professor Anatoly Klypin after 26 years at the university. Fellow Astronomy faculty members Rene Walterbos and Jason Jackiewicz commemorated Klypin's long career during a special reception attended by students, faculty, and staff. A framed photograph was given to Professor Klypin to remind him of the beautiful New Mexico landscapes long into the future.



Criminal justice professor featured at Rally

By: Matthew Legarreta

Gender inequality, laws and policies that govern an unequal living experience are among the topics Dulcinea Lara, associate professor of criminal justice at New Mexico State University, addressed as the keynote speaker of the 2019 Las Cruces Women's Rally.

This year's rally was the third since 2017, when the gathering drew more than 1,500 people, the second largest at any event in Las Cruces history. The event occurred Saturday, Jan. 19 at the Albert Johnson Park, 501 N. Main St.

There, Lara shared personal elements of her life and stories about a woman she calls her "she-ro," her grandmother Maria. She addressed the larger issues impacting women's lives and how the greater community can join together to change these outdated systems.



Criminal justice professor Dulcinea Lara delivers the keynote address at the 2019 Las Cruces Women's Rally (Courtesy photo)

"'Reasonable' reactions to inequality should not be interpreted as 'radical,'" said Lara, who is also the director of ethnic studies in criminal justice. "Instead, people who believe in the functionality of a democracy must begin the long, collective work of undoing oppressive systems implemented and maintained to control populations made vulnerable through subtle and overt policies, laws, and behaviors. This is 'reasonable' work."



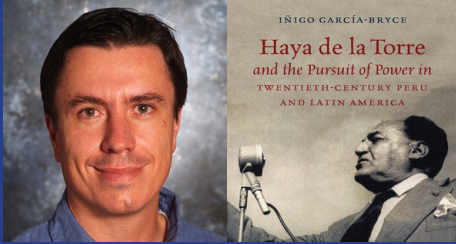
Eileen VanWie wears a banner with strong women depicted on it during the 2019 Las Cruces Women's Rally. (Courtesy Photo Robin Zielinski/Sun-News)

NMSU's Gender and Sexuality Program, the Las Cruces Coalition for Reproductive Justice and the NAACP of Dona Ana County sponsored the rally.

Rally organizer Eileen VanWie, a retired NMSU professor, described the rally as an opportunity for demonstrators to show their support when it comes to issues of gender inequality in access to education, health care, childcare, and housing.

[Read more...](#)

History professor hosts book talk



NMSU associate professor Inigo Garcia-Bryce delved deep into his recently published biography of Peruvian leader Haya de la Torre during a book presentation at Dominici Hall on February 21. Following the presentation was a Peruvian dance performance.

Anthropology professors present at Celebration in Utah

On March 1-3, NMSU Anthropology professors Braeden Dimitroff and Fumi Arakawa attended “Celebrate Cedar Mesa - Bears Ears,” an annual event in Bluff, Utah. There, Dimitroff presented the synthesis of the Alkali Ridge and Montezuma Canyon conducted by the NMSU Department of Anthropology project from 2013 to 2018. More than 300 people attended the event.



Anthropology professor featured in new documentary

Allison Cantor, an adjunct assistant professor in the department of Anthropology, was interviewed for the documentary “Birth in Pieces,” which premiered recently at the Alamo Drafthouse in Austin, TX. The film will screen in August at the Texas State Capitol as part of a presentation on the reproductive health and rights approach the state of Texas should be taking in the future.



Criminal justice professor speaks at symposium



Photo: Daniel Borunda/El Paso Times)

NMSU criminal justice professor Mike Tapia was a featured guest during University of Texas at El Paso Department of Criminal Justice's Gangs in the Southwest symposium on April 18. The event featured four speakers, including Tapia, who were researchers and experts on gang activity.

The first class of Conroy Scholars graduates



In August 2016, William B. Conroy (seated) met with recipients of the NMSU Conroy Scholarship including (from left) Analyssa Martinez and Arianna Martinez, who were Angela Kearns, Caroline Korte and Haley Stewart, all members of the first cohort of scholars graduating in 2019. (Courtesy photo)

By: Melissa Rutter

The first seven Conroy Scholars graduated from NMSU in May. Five of them were from the College of Arts and Sciences.

Elena Davidson, Angela Kearns, Sienna Mata, Haley Stewart and Leah Stiff received degrees ranging from computer science to psychology.

All five of the students received opportunities that included interning for well-known companies and clocking countless hours in volunteer work with organizations and communities across the world. And, thanks to their scholarship, they graduated debt free.

The Conroy Scholarship is named for William B. Conroy, who served as NMSU President from 1997-2000, following his service as interim president and provost. While at NMSU, Conroy was a strong supporter of the honors program, which

included the renovation of the historic YMCA building that now houses the Conroy Honors College.

The renovated building was dedicated as the William B. Conroy Honors Center in 2002. Years later, the scholarship was also named in his honor for his hard work and his belief in the college.

High school students who are National Merit semi-finalists or National Hispanic Merit semi-finalists are eligible for the Conroy scholarship beginning their freshman year at NMSU. The scholarship is a four-year offer that covers tuition and other expenses, which requires students to maintain a 3.5 grade point average.

Student News

The Conroy Graduates



Sienna Mata

Sienna Mata graduated with a bachelor's degree in journalism and media studies and a minor in gender and sexuality studies. She has been an essential part of Kokopelli, a student newspaper, where she has worked as the managing editor, copyediting, assigning and posting stories.

Mata says living on campus has been a key element to her success academically and socially, and without the Conroy Honors scholarship, she wouldn't have been able to afford on-campus residency. She came to NMSU a year after the other Conroy Scholars and will be graduating a year early. After graduation, she plans to move to California and work toward becoming a librarian.



Elena Davidson

During summer 2017, Elena Davidson worked as an engineering practicum intern at Google in Mountain View, California. The following summer she interned as an engineer at Qualcomm in San Diego, California, where she worked on one of its product test teams, and where she returned as a full-time engineer after she graduated with a bachelor's degree in computer science.

Davidson has also spent several years serving as a leader in NMSU's Young Women in Computing, an outreach organization aimed at increasing female interest in computer science. Davidson says one of her standout moments was in October 2018 when she was chosen as a Computing Alliance of Hispanic-Serving Institutions scholar. The organization aims to advance Hispanics in computing and only awards four university students in North America every year.



Haley Stewart

After graduating with bachelor's degrees in criminal justice and government and minors in forensic science and economics, Haley Stewart will return to NMSU to complete her master's degree in criminal justice and work as a graduate assistant.

In 2016, Stewart was a student panelist for the Domenici Public Policy Conference, and she received an internship with the Victims' Assistance unit of the Las Cruces Police Department. In summer 2017 and 2018, she traveled with Aggies Without Limits, a student-run community service organization, to Nicaragua and Puerto Rico to construct pedestrian bridges.

Stewart is also part of the Student Advocacy Board run by ASNMSU and traveled to Santa Fe to advocate for legislation concerning college students. Stewart says being a Conroy Scholar for the past four years motivated her to succeed.



Angela Kearns

Angela Kearns graduated with her bachelor's degrees in computer science and mathematics, and she will be returning to Nike, Inc. as a full-time software engineer. She first interned for the company during summer 2018, where she worked in a business systems analyst role. She also interned with TRAX International at White Sands Missile Range as a software developer in summer 2017.

In her four years at NMSU, Kearns participated in numerous city and campus-wide volunteering projects, including serving food at Casa de Peregrinos Soup Kitchen, cleaning campus as part of the Keep State Great beautification project and helping at the NMSU Career Connections career fair. She also worked for Young Women in Computing, which gave her the opportunity to teach students about computer science at local schools.



Leah Stiff

As a first-generation college student, Leah Stiff graduated with her bachelor's degree in psychology and minors in management and educational psychology. She has had two internships, the first through the Honors Internship Program, where she worked at TRIO Student Support Services as a mentor. During this internship, she researched practices that enable students to mentor their peers in higher education settings. The second internship was at the Southwest Outreach Academic and Research lab at NMSU where she helped research education trends and needs in New Mexico

and helped the directors implement projects to improve the education of students.

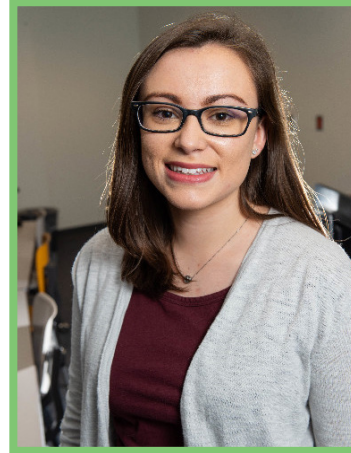
Stiff has also volunteered during Buddy Day for Autism Awareness, Walk for Alzheimer's and at La Piñon. After graduation, Stiff will be moving to Spain to live for a few years before applying to graduate school.

Three computer science students selected for Google Hispanic Leadership Summit

Elena Davidson, Catalina Sanchez-Maes and Gabriella Garcia were among a select group of students who participated in the Google Hispanic Student Leadership Summit in Austin, TX. The three NMSU computer science students, all of whom have come through NMSU's Young Women in Computing program, were selected among 50 nationwide to attend the two-day summit on April 5-6.

The Computing Alliance of Hispanic-Serving Institutions (CAHSI) served as the technical workshop sponsor for this event, with the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) being a co-sponsor. This is the third year the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities has partnered with Google to co-host the summit.

On their return to NMSU, the three participants shared what they learned with their fellow students, answering questions about their experiences during the summit and encouraging other NMSU students to apply for the program next year.

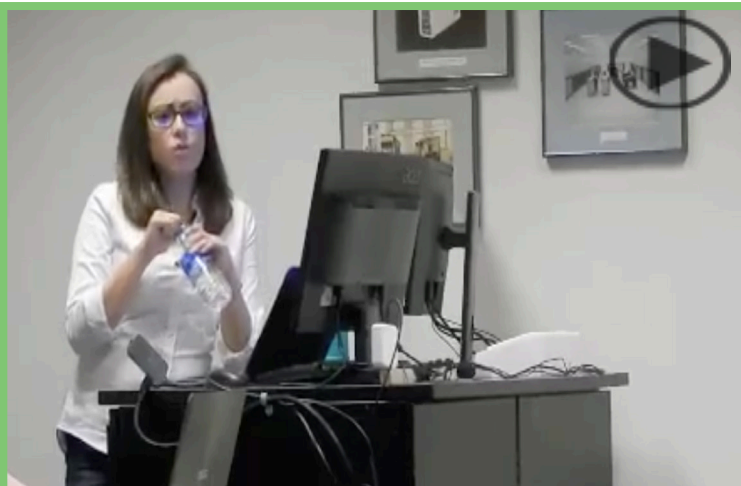


Elena Davidson, one of the students chosen to participate in the Google Hispanic Leadership Summit. (NMSU Photo by Josh Bachman)

Catalina Sanchez-Maes, one of the students chosen to participate in the Google Hispanic Leadership Summit. (NMSU Photo by Josh Bachman)



Gabriella Garcia, one of the students chosen to participate in the Google Hispanic Leadership Summit. (NMSU Photo by Josh Bachman)



Davidson shares what she learned at the summit with other students from the CAHSI Student Club at NMSU.

Student News

Arts and Sciences students honored in 2019 awards



Outstanding Student Service Awards
Liliana Carreon - Communication Studies
Mariana Aldavaz - Chemistry



Outstanding Undergraduate Awards
Carlos Campos - Biology
Esmeralda Ferrales - Anthropology
Jennifer Anne Foster - Languages & Linguistics
Raquel Madrigal - Art

Outstanding Graduate Awards
Yashoda Kandel - Biology
Morgan Beasley - Psychology

Dean's Graduate Awards for Excellence
Marquette Gass - Anthropology
Erika Ochoa - Criminal Justice

Dean's Undergraduate Award for Excellence
Chase Brooks - Physics
James Lewis - Mathematical Sciences

NMSU Alumni Association Outstanding Graduate Award
Abigail Stolp - English

College of Arts and Sciences Highest Honors
Alexander Kurian - Computer Science

On May 10, a selection of high performing students from programs in the College of Arts and Sciences (pictured above) were honored with more than half a dozen awards recognizing their remarkable achievements in academics (listed in the ceremony's program, pictured left.) The students were recognized during a ceremony at the ASNMSU Center for the Arts. (pictured below.) Pictures by Ashley Jurado.



Student News

Model U.N. team takes highest honors

By Matthew Legarreta

For the 13th year, the New Mexico State University's Model United Nations team picked up top honors during their National Model U.N. Conference in New York City.

The conference, which ran from March 24-28, ended with NMSU's Model U.N. team earning the title Outstanding Delegation. With more than 130 institutions, and 5,000 students, the competition was fierce. In receiving the Outstanding Delegation designation, the NMSU Model U.N. team achieved the highest recognition awarded at the conference. NMSU represented the country of Somalia during the mock summit.

"This is the third time we've received this award in my four years here," said Marcus Sanchez, the president of the team, "which really means a lot, to be able to uphold NMSU's record."

[Read more...](#)



The NMSU Model U.N. team poses with the "Outstanding Delegation" award given to them during the National Model U.N. Conference in New York City on March 28, 2019. (Courtesy photo)



The NMSU Model U.N. team working inside of the UN Headquarters during the National Model United Nations conference, (Courtesy photo)

Student News

Model U.N. Spring Conference

The Model U.N. team takes a group photo of the entire 2019 team at the NMSU campus. (Courtesy photo)



Before they left for their national conference, the NMSU Model U.N. team hosted a newly expanded version of their annual Spring Conference, which brought together students from both NMSU and local high schools to participate in a mock United Nations summit on March 15-16, where they learned what it took to perform international diplomacy on a grand scale.

In years past, these conferences were primarily geared towards local high school students but, this year, the Model U.N. team decided to also open up the event to undergraduate and graduate students at NMSU.

“All we asked for was a willingness to learn about different cultures and issues around the world,” said Fay Yurwit, the secretary for NMSU’s Model U.N. team. “We really welcomed anyone who just wanted to learn about the process and the United Nations, and who wanted to improve their knowledge on the subject.”

[Read more...](#)



Criminal Justice honor society wins big at national conference

Alpha Phi Sigma, the Criminal Justice Honor Society at NMSU, performed well during their National Conference held March 27-29 in Baltimore, MD.

The chapter and its members placed high during the conferences' activities, with Alpha Phi Sigma excelling in the following categories:

- Theme of the Year – Mental Health and the Criminal Justice (SystemStar Chapter Award)
- Outstanding Unity Chapter Goal
- Website Competition Award
- Crime Scene Investigation- 2nd place
- Chapter T-Shirt Competition- 3rd place

A number of students also won individual scholarships, including three of the six most prestigious awards with cash prizes in excess of \$4,500:

- V.A. Leonard Scholarship - Miquela Jurado
- 2019 Student Member of the Year - Erika Ochoa
- 2019 Student Member Achievement Award - Natasha Briones
- Outstanding Graduate Paper (2nd Place) - Erika Ochoa
- Individual Scholarships: Melissa Mata, Dana Mireles, Lizbeth Paez, Erica Arispe, Erika Ochoa, Natasha Briones, Miquela Jurado, Kelsey Phillips.

The Chapter Advisor, Criminal Justice professor Andrea Joseph, also won the Advisor of the Year Award during the event.



The NMSU Alpha Phi Sigma chapter at the Baltimore Waterside Marriot, venue of this year's Criminal Justice Honor's Society National Conference. (Courtesy photo)



Alpha Phi Sigma members participating in the conference's opening ceremony. (Courtesy photo)

Anthropology graduates earn Blake Prize

By Matthew Legarreta

Two recent New Mexico State University anthropology graduates were chosen as the inaugural winners of a new prize recognizing excellence in anthropological research.

Mary Brown and Brittany Fisher were selected as the winners of the newly established Bradley A. Blake Prize. The prize, kickstarted by NMSU alumnus Alejandro Lugo, was created this academic year in honor of former NMSU anthropology professor Bradley A. Blake, who passed away in 2012.

“Dr. Blake was my anthropology professor, mentor, and advisor during my undergraduate years at NMSU in the early 1980s,” said Lugo. “Dr. Blake’s eloquent and engaging lectures, as well as his rigorous seminars and his commitment to mentoring students, inspired me to major in anthropology at NMSU, and to eventually become an anthropology professor myself.”



The two winners of the Bradley A. Blake prize were honored during the NMSU Anthropology department’s graduation celebration, on May 9 at the University Museum. From left to right: Alejandro Lugo, Mary Brown, Brittany Fisher, and anthropology department head Rani Alexander. (NMSU photo by Tom Conelly)



The two winners of the Bradley A. Blake prize, Mary Brown and Brittany Fisher, holding their awards. (NMSU photo by Tom Conelly)

“As a very proud NMSU alumnus,” said Lugo, “I wanted to establish the Bradley A. Blake Prize for Excellence in Anthropology in order to honor Dr. Blake’s incredible legacy as an outstanding NMSU anthropologist, social scientist, and educator – by recognizing rigorous and original scholarly anthropological research carried out by graduate students for their master’s thesis.”



The Bradley A. Blake prize was established by NMSU alumnus Alejandro Lugo to honor the memory of his mentor, former NMSU professor Bradley A. Blake. (NMSU photo by Tom Conelly)

Both students received their awards during the Anthropology department’s graduation celebration in May at the NMSU University Museum. They also presented on the topics of their theses, with the chairs of their graduating committee, NMSU professors Lois Stanford and William Walker, on hand to present them with their prizes after.

Student News

Journalism students join millennial summit



Three students from the Department of Journalism and Media Studies traveled to the Midwest on the weekend of April 26 to participate in the National Millennial Community summit event. Leyla Gillespie-Porras, Felipe Loza and Crystal Gomez were among a select group of students chosen from a national applicant pool to attend a three-day series of meetings in Omaha, Nebraska, and Kansas City, Missouri.

The meetings were designed to connect millennial and Generation Z students from across the country with business leaders and key media influencers. These connections are meant to foster “think tank” dialogue in an effort to build cross-generational relationships and ultimately help close generation gaps.

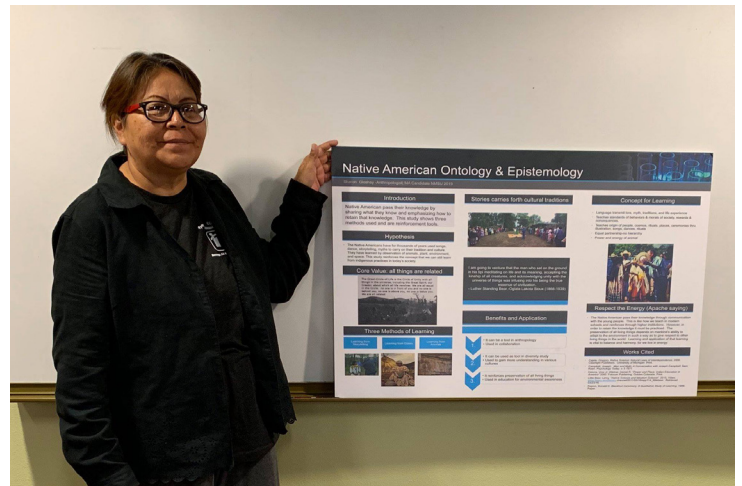
Pictured (from left): NMSU journalism students Leyla Gillespie-Porras, Felipe Loza and Crystal Gomez at the National Millennial Community event in Omaha, Nebraska.

Art students win at symposium



A team of three College of Arts and Sciences students (Ger Xiong, Olivia Lemmons, and Shau-ania Grant) won second place in the International Saw, File, and Solder competition that took place at the Yuma Arts Symposium in February. Assistant Professor Motoko Furuhashi and Visiting Professor Bree Lamb of the art department lead the students on the field trip to Yuma, AZ in order to compete in the symposium.

Anthropology student wins best poster



Anthropology student Sharon Gloshey attended the Colorado Council of Professional Archaeologists annual meeting on March 14-17. During the meeting, Gloshey had her poster on Native American ontology and epistemology chosen as the Best Student Poster at the conference.

Network and Security Group takes third at competition

By Victoria Balderrama



The New Mexico State University Network and Security Group.

Keeping hackers away is critical for businesses, and the New Mexico State University Network and Security Group faced that issue at the Southwest Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition. The team recorded a third-place finish, its best since first qualifying for the regional in 2015.

The competition is for college students that exercise both technical and business skills. The objective is for teams to secure, manage and maintain a small business network. The Network and Security Group from NMSU is made up of students in information engineering technology, information and communication technology and computer science programs.

[Read more...](#)

Journalism class produces documentaries in the field

In April, the Documentary Photojournalism class spent time making documentary photographs in Anthony, Texas and New Mexico. The photographs were for a class project of the small villages and towns that run along the Rio Grande river. Photojournalism professor Bruce Berman, who instructs the class, explained that the ultimate goal of the project was to leave a lasting document of the Mesilla Valley and its small towns as urbanization and development slowly change the nature of this region and its communities.



Left: Amanda Byars and Jeffery Hernandez, walk around Anthony Texas looking for photographic opportunities, as they participated in a Journalism 412 Documentary Photojournalism class project, documenting the small villages and towns that run along the Rio Grande between El Paso and Las Cruces. April 18, 2019. (NMSU photo by Josh Bachman)

Right: Bruce Berman, photojournalism professor in the Journalism Department at New Mexico State University, sitting in the Lowes parking lot in Anthony, giving his class directions. (NMSU photo by Josh Bachman)



Left: Evelyn Sandoval, a student in the Photojournalism class, checks the back of her camera while she explores the Whoopee Bowl near Canutillo, Texas. (NMSU photo by Josh Bachman)

Art history student's exhibit showcases insects and their impact on art, culture

By Melissa Rutter



Anthropology master's student Rachel Cover spent 10 months macro photographing insects to give people a closer look at them including the great blue hairstreak butterfly. (Photo by Rachel Cover)

look at them, something she taught herself to do along the way. She had 21 macro photos of 15 types of insects including a bee, beetle, butterfly and ant.

Cover has a bachelor's in art history and previously helped assist at the University Art Gallery, which is what inspired her master's project. She realized the art gallery had collaborated with other museums on campus and was eager to continue the process of collaboration with the Arthropod Museum to use their insects to discuss stories about insects in human culture.

Spring means butterflies were fluttering around, bees were buzzing by and beetles were scurrying around. But have you ever stopped to think about how they've impacted art and culture?

That's what New Mexico State University anthropology master's student Rachel Cover showcased during her exhibition at the University Museum in Kent Hall, "Entomomania: Insects in Art and Culture," which opened April 4.

The exhibit focused on specific insects and how they have influenced our culture, world and how we interact with the natural world. One of those ways is with stories, specifically stories that are borderline prehistory.

Rather than just house the insects in glass cases to be displayed, Cover spent 10 months macro photographing the insects to give people a closer



Cover spent 10 months macro photographing insects to give people a closer look at them including the honey bee. (Photo by Rachel Cover)



Cover's macro photograph of the the rainbow scarab beetle. Her exhibit will be on display in the University Museum until early September. (Photo by Rachel Cover)

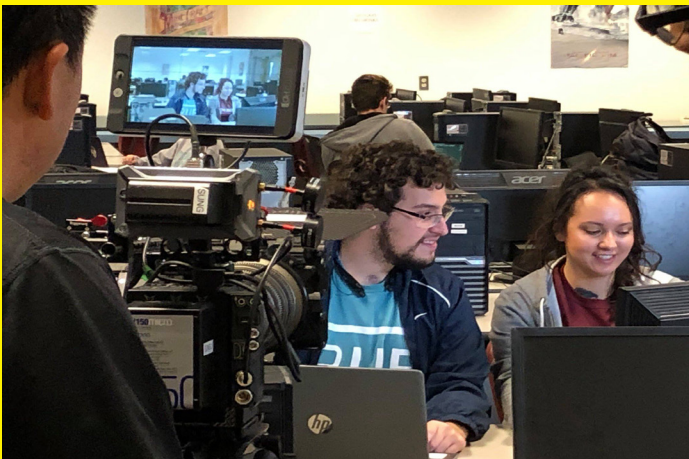
Google film crew features computer science students



Marco Salazar is filmed at Zuhl Library.



Vensan Carbardo is interviewed by the film crew at the Computer Science Lab.



Marco Salazar (left) and Kay Sweebe (right) are filmed at the Computer Science Lab.

Khomari Flash Films, a Los Angeles based film company, was on campus the week of March 14 filming NMSU computer science students who participated in the Google Tech Exchange last fall.

Computer science students Kay Sweebe, Marco Salazar, Vensan Carbardo, Jacob Espinosa and Arianna Martinez were selected for the program.

Google sent the crew to the home campuses of students at different universities across the country, with the intent of releasing the films to further promote the Google Tech Exchange partnership.



Vensan Carbardo is filmed at Zuhl Library.

Student News

Nepalese student association hosts annual International Conference

The NMSU Nepalese Students Association hosted its 11th annual International Conference on March 23 at Domenici Hall. This year's theme was "Science for All: Role Towards Development of Modern World."



Conference coordinator Rajan Koirala, a graduate student in the Chemistry and Biochem-

istry department, said the theme was chosen and finalized by the NeSA academic committee as it covered all fields of science through a variety of time periods, from medieval times on. The conference highlighted the application of science to the development of the world.

Phi Alpha Theta student honors society hosts lecture on revolution

On March 14, the NMSU Phi Alpha Theta Student Honors Society presented an informational lecture about the Revolutions of 1919, which resulted in Korea gaining its independence from Japanese rule. The lecture explored the "Sam-il" movement that kicked off the revolution, and how Korea's bid for independence directly led to the current state of the region.

The Phi Alpha Theta serves as the local Rho-Zeta chapter of the International Honor Society in History.



Advertising students travel to Colorado



NMSU Department of Journalism and Media Studies students pose for a photo along with Dr. Hwiman Chung, far right, in front of the University Memorial Center at the University of Colorado campus in Boulder. (Photo by Karrie Lucero)

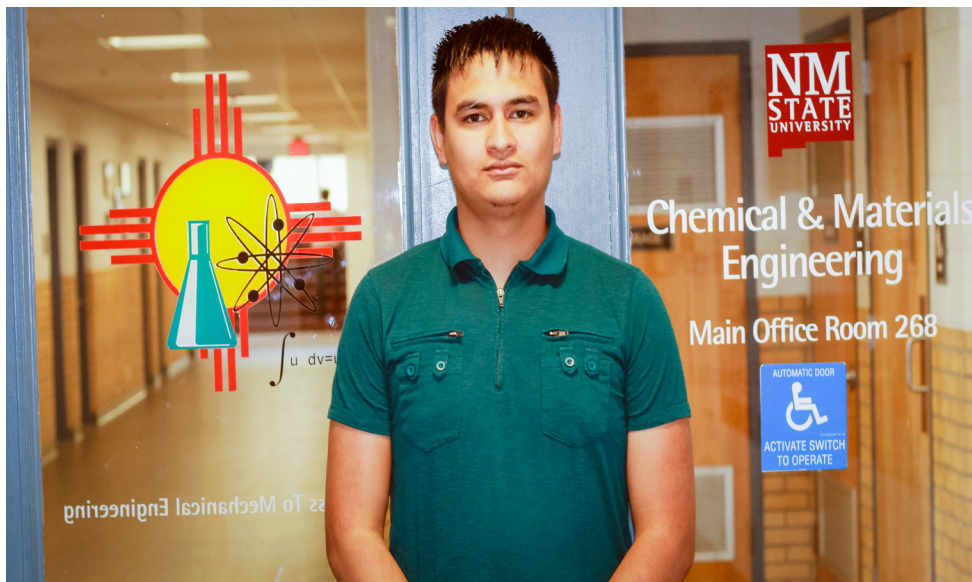
A group of nine advertising students from the NMSU Department of Journalism and Media Studies traveled to the Denver area this weekend to participate in the annual American Advertising Federation (District 12) National Student Advertising Competition at the University of Colorado campus in Boulder.

Led by Professor Hwiman Chung, the students presented a comprehensive advertising campaign they created for Wienerschnitzel, a fast food restaurant chain that specializes in hot dogs. The team's campaign centered around the "Wiener Moment" concept.

The students spent months working on the campaign, which included conducting extensive company background and market research. The students also developed extensive marketing strategies and produced their own creative content including a TV commercial, still images, logos and ad copy.

NMSU graduate, father of two credits family and CAMP program with his success

By Matthew Legarreta



David Rodriguez, a migrant student who moved to the U.S. from Mexico when he was 17, earned his bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from New Mexico State University. (NMSU photo by Matthew Legarreta)

In May, David Rodriguez crossed the stage to collect his degree with hundreds of other graduates at the spring commencement ceremony at New Mexico State University. He earned his degree in chemical engineering, but this father-of-two's non-traditional path began in Mexico, where he was born and raised.

Rodriguez arrived in Deming, New Mexico as part of a farmworker family at age 17 and faced a culture shock.

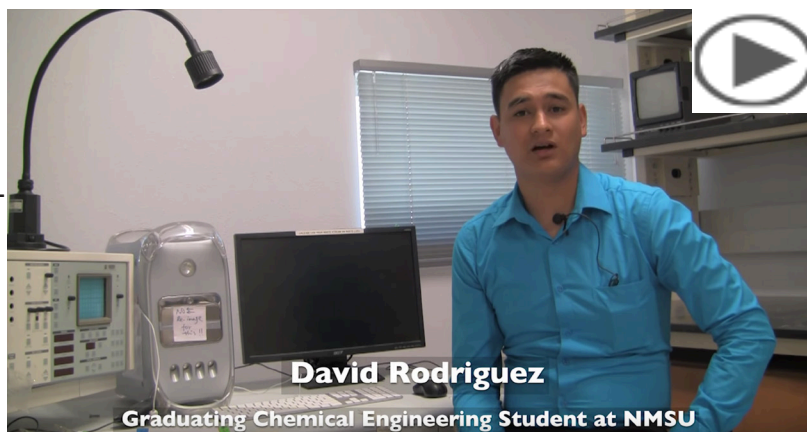
"I spent almost all of my education back in Mexico," said Rodriguez. "So that was quite a different culture, different language, different

people — a different type of education."

Rodriguez was accepted at three New Mexico universities, but ultimately chose NMSU for its chemical engineering department, specifically the success rate of its past alumni. But he faced more important challenges than picking a major.

"My first child came after my freshman year of college," said Rodriguez. "So that was the biggest challenge: trying to find the time for family, and for other responsibilities at home, and at work, and school. So I had to learn how to manage my time to accomplish all those goals."

Help came from NMSU's College Assistance Migrant Program, which provides both funding and mentoring to assist students from migrant and farmworker families across New Mexico and West Texas.



David Rodriguez speaks about his time at NMSU, and the influence of C.A.M.P. on his education.

"I didn't have good English communication skills, so I was kind of afraid to go to university at first," said Rodriguez. "CAMP gave me the opportunity to overcome that and get my degree."

[Read more...](#)

“A Starry Night” 2019 Gala



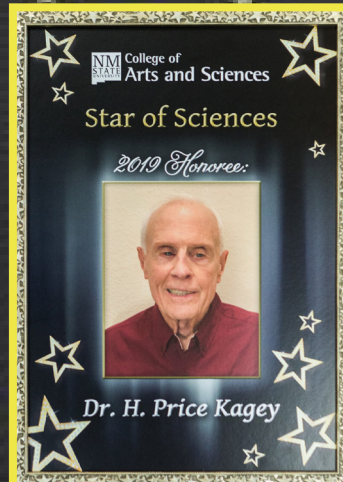
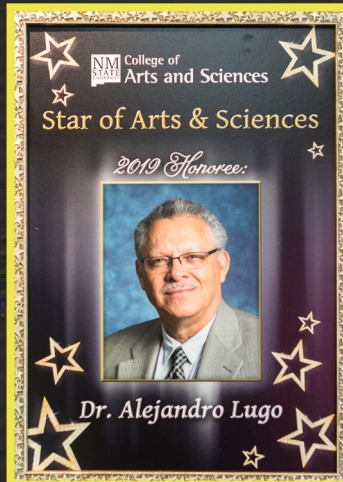
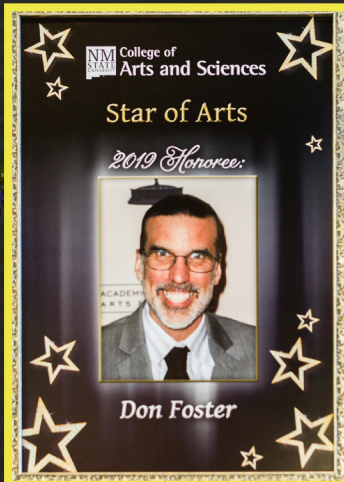
Left to right: Arts and Sciences Dean Enrico Pontelli, Don Foster, Wanda Bowman, Price Kagey, Alejandro Lugo, [TC], and NMSU Chancellor Dan Arvizu.

Four distinguished individuals were honored during the College of Arts and Sciences “A Starry Night” gala fundraiser on Friday, April 5 at the ASNMSU Center for the Arts.

Price Kagey, who received a bachelor’s degree in physics from NMSU in 1965 and formerly worked for the CIA, received the Star of the Sciences Award. Don Foster, who graduated from NMSU in 1981 with a degree in theatre arts and went on to write and produce TV shows like “Roseanne” and “The Big Bang Theory, received the Star of the Arts Award. The Star of the Arts & Sciences went to alumnus Alejandro Lugo, who has a distinguished academic career as a sociocultural anthropologist. And the Town and Gown award was given to Wanda Bowman, who is president of Ashley Home Furnishings in Las Cruces. She has a history of philanthropy and serves on various community boards.

“A Starry Night” began in 2013 to recognize individuals who have achieved state, national or international distinction through their accomplishments and leadership while supporting their community and NMSU’s College of Arts and Sciences. Each year, the gala also raises funds for a different educational program to help students within the college. This year, the funds raised during the event contributed to the Aggie Jumpstart program.

College News



During the event, the college also honored star faculty members, staff, students, and alumni from each of its 26 departments.

This year, the college partnered with Las Cruces Public Schools and Alma d'Arte program to provide catering for the evening (pictured below.) Entertainment for the event included a special performance of a scene from "My Fair Lady" by students of NMSU's Department of Theatre Arts (pictured right.)

NMSU photos by Mike Jones.



Aggie Jumpstart program begins

Millions of freshmen college students across the country are forced to take remedial courses in math, reading and English because they are not considered “college ready.” Multiple studies have shown that these students are less likely to graduate. Perhaps by starting off behind their peers they fear they’ll never catch up.

Leaders at New Mexico State University are confident a new program called Aggie Jumpstart will help change those statistics by inviting 40 specially selected students to prepare for the fall semester through the eight-week summer program. These students will get help not only in polishing their skills in English and mathematics, but also get a head start on college life by living in campus housing, engaging in leadership experiences, and receiving training in study skills and time management.



Students gather on the International Mall for the AggieFest welcome and orientation event. (Photo by Darren Phillips)

NMSU Vice President for Student Success Renay Scott says the idea is to help these students get familiar with the campus and get ahead of their fellow freshmen so they can become leaders.

“The part that really resonates with me because of my community college experience is social mobility. There are so many factors around social mobility,” said Scott, who was most recently the President of Doña Ana Community College in the NMSU system. “It’s not just giving them skills and education to compete in the business world to get the job that moves them up in salaries. It’s the grit and efficacy and determination that sometimes, when you’re always behind the eight ball that part of you gets beaten down. For those students, we want to lift them up and make sure they’re successful.”

Scott started brainstorming with Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences Enrico Pontelli when she was still at DACC. Together, they came up with the plan for Aggie Jumpstart.

“Aggie Jumpstart can help these students feel like they’re on a level playing field, actually they will be starting off with extra training that can put them ahead of their peers,” Pontelli said. “We want to help them feel empowered.”

[Read more...](#)

College names new associate dean

By: Matthew Legarreta

Longtime New Mexico State University math professor and department head Joseph Lakey was named associate dean for academics for the College of Arts and Sciences this spring.

"I'm here to assist (College of Arts and Sciences) Dean (Enrico) Pontelli in crafting the overall vision for the college," said Lakey, "what we want to be known for and how we can be effective at getting our job done. There is a lot of thinking right now about how we can be better which, at the end of the day, is really exciting."

Pontelli named Lakey to the position in February, after nearly a yearlong search.

"Dr. Lakey brings experience and vision to this position, and we are delighted to have him as part of our team," said Pontelli.

Lakey had been serving in the interim capacity since May 2018 after Beth Pollack, who served in that position for 8 years, gave notice she would be retiring. Lakey said Pollack's mentorship has been important to his success.

"I've seen a lot of the situations that pop up here by this point," said Lakey. "There's still some that come up that I haven't seen, but it was very helpful for me to be trained by someone who had been doing the job for several years. Problems can happen when you don't know what the processes are."



Joseph Lakey, associate dean of academics for the College of Arts and Sciences following nearly a year in the interim position. (NMSU photo by Darren Phillips)



Joseph Lakey teaching a class. Before becoming the new Associate Dean of Academics, Lakey was a professor and department head in the mathematics department. (NMSU photo by Darren Phillips)

Lakey earned his doctorate in mathematics from the University of Maryland in 1991. Following three years of postdoctoral research at the University of Texas at Austin, and a brief stint as a visiting professor at Texas A&M University, Lakey came to NMSU, where he has remained for nearly 25 years.

"I've actually been here for a long time, since 1995," said Lakey. "That's nearly half of my life at this point."

Devasthali Hall opening for classes in fall 2019



The interior and exterior of Devasthali Hall, pictured in its current stage of construction at the end of the spring 2019 semester. (Photos by Josh Bachman)

Not everyone would call them artists, but since last spring workers in bright yellow and orange vests have been sculpting a masterpiece on the campus of New Mexico State University – not with marble and chisels but with bulldozers and cranes. The results of their work will be revealed in time for New Mexico State University's fall semester.

After about 16 months of labor, Devasthali Hall will open to art students and faculty in fall 2019. The state-of-the-art visual arts facility is the result of a \$22.5 million General Obligation bond passed by voters in 2016. It was named in honor of Ammu and Rama Devasthali, who have championed the project for several years.

The building replaces D. W. Williams Hall, the nearly 80-year-old former gymnasium that has been home to New Mexico State University's Department of Art and University Art Gallery in the College of Arts and Sciences.



Architectural renderings of the interior and exterior of Devasthali Hall, as it is projected to look upon its opening. (Courtesy photo RMKM Architecture)

College News

While touring the building still under construction, Julia Barello, art professor and head of the Department of Art, emphasized the importance of the building as community outreach.

“The central north-south access with the university on one end and the community on the other end is the symbolic connection between the university and the community.”

While the Department of Art portion of Devasthali Hall for classrooms and studios will open in the fall, the art gallery, to be known as the University Art Museum, will open in February of 2020.

“When you hear the word gallery, it’s a commercial venture,” said Marisa Sage, Director of the University Art Museum. “When you hear museum, that’s an educational venture. In our new museum, we’ll spaces for a multitude of uses. We’ll have a room for scholars to study our different collections and a dedicated space for our retablos (Mexican folk art consisting of small oil paintings on tin, wood and sometimes copper which were used in home altars). We’ll have multiple spaces to serve different aspects of our mission. We serve multiple constituencies. We think of ourselves as a bridge between the community at large, the culture of Las Cruces and the region and the culture of NMSU and our students, faculty and staff.”



Watch Devasthali Hall rise from the ground up with a bird's eye view of its construction from the art cam.



NMSU Art Department Head Julia Barello explains the design of the entrance area for the new Devasthali Hall.

College News

Spring 2019 Student Ambassadors



Ellyssia Forbes
President

Major: Microbiology

Jarod Peterman
Vice President

Major: Microbiology

Miranda Lovato
Secretary/Treasurer

Major: Criminal Justice

Alexander Warner-Garnett

Major: Government

Tamanda Ellen Chabvuta

Major: Communications

Don Juan Wesley

Major: Philosophy



Janelle Hernandez

Major: Sociology

Karina Ortega

Major: Theatre Arts

Kelsi Blake

Major: Criminal Justice

Leah Stiff

Major: Psychology

Marianne Salas

Major: English

Merari Valenzuela

Major: Biology



Mikayla Fuller-Patterson

Major: English

Rita Adamec

Major: Geology

Theodore Muka

Major: Biology

Tiffany Flores

Major: Criminal Justice

Xavier Jimenez

Major: Biology

Victor Mata

Major: Government



College News

Spring 2019 Dean's Council

The Dean's Council is an advisory council of volunteers who use their knowledge and influence to further the College's goals and to participate in ensuring future success.

The mission of the Dean's Council is to support the College of Arts and Sciences Dean, faculty, and students in the pursuit of excellence in teaching, research, service, and outreach.

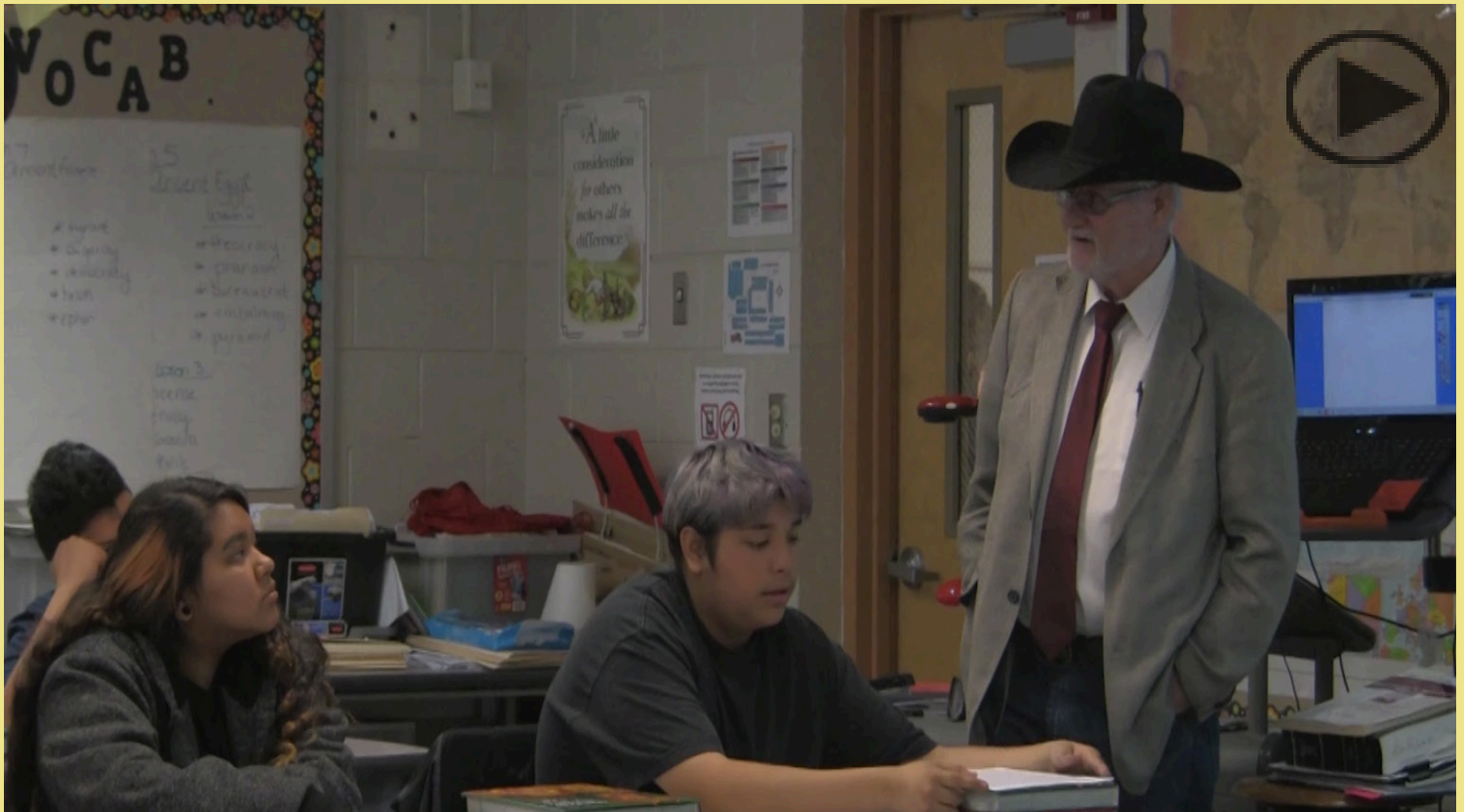


Enrico Pontelli, bottom row left, Dean of New Mexico State University's College of Arts and Sciences, and the Dean's Council members, top row from left, Phil San Filippo, Marsha San Filippo, Sally Cutter, Glenn Cutter, Connie Hines, Jana Williams, Maryce Jacobs, Sheila Brack, Jag Cheema; bottom row from left, Wanda Bowman, Rynni Henderson, J. Paul Taylor, Heather Pollard, Heather Salopek and Sharon Trujillo-Kolosseus. (NMSU photo)

Community Outreach

Criminal Justice professors teach ‘Street Law’

By: Matthew Legarreta



Criminal justice professors conduct a class on “Street Law” for a class of eighth graders at Lynn Middle School. (Video by Matthew Legarreta)

Students at Lynn Middle School have spent Friday mornings almost every week for the Spring semester engaged in “Street Law” classes, learning about topics such as civil, family, and criminal law from New Mexico State University criminal justice faculty.

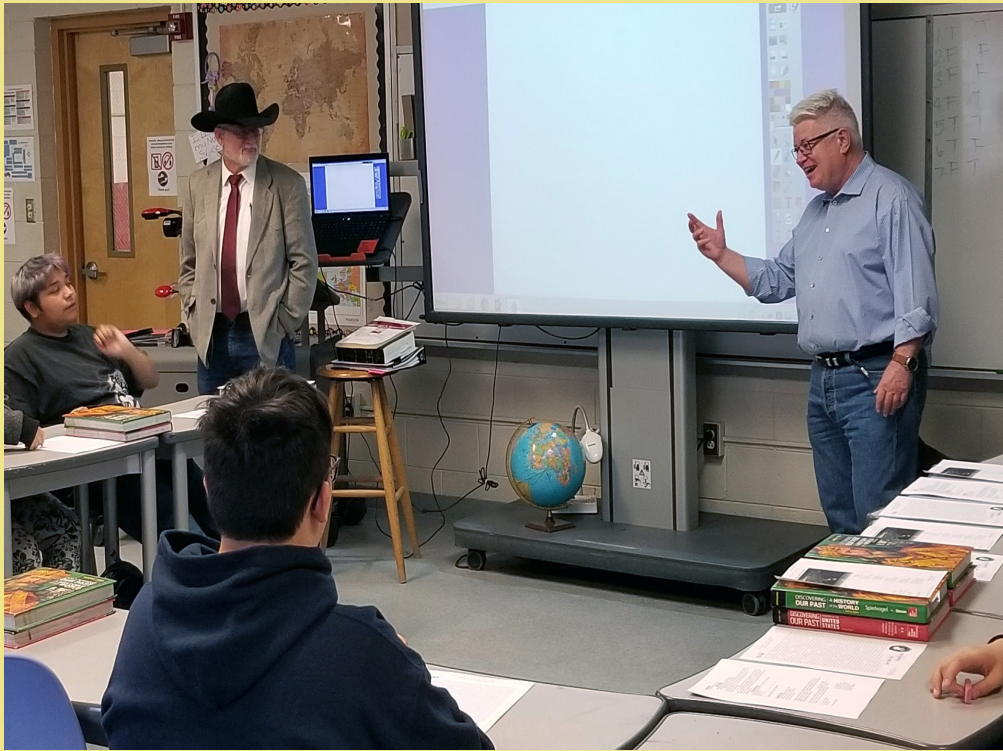
New Mexico has consistently ranked low when it comes to child welfare, with recent findings from the 2017 Kids Count Data Book ranking the state 49th out of 50 for overall child well-being. Dona Ana County in particular has 38 percent of children living in poverty, eight percent higher than the average for the rest of the state.

Those troubling statistics got the attention of Rory Rank, an adjunct faculty member at NMSU’s criminal justice department, who proposed a more direct approach to reaching students in danger of engaging in criminal activities.

“You can do studies, you can do research, you can do data and all this,” said Rank, “but the number one thing is action. You have to get out and actually provide the service and get involved.”

Rank worked alongside fellow Criminal justice professors Steve Nance, William Corbett, and Andrea Joseph on developing and presenting the “Street Law” classes to the eighth grade students of Michelle Lucero’s social studies class. The goal of the class is to both educate and deter at-risk youth from pursuing and engaging in illegal activity.

Community Outreach



Rory Rank (left) and Steve Nance (right) instruct students at Lynn Middle School, Friday, March 8, 2019, on the ins-and-out of "Street Law." (NMSU photo by Matthew Legarreta)

"Reaching kids in middle school...it's a place where we can start to address tough issues for children in more troubled backgrounds," said Nance, a visiting faculty member at NMSU and instructor of criminal justice classes at Dona Ana Community College.

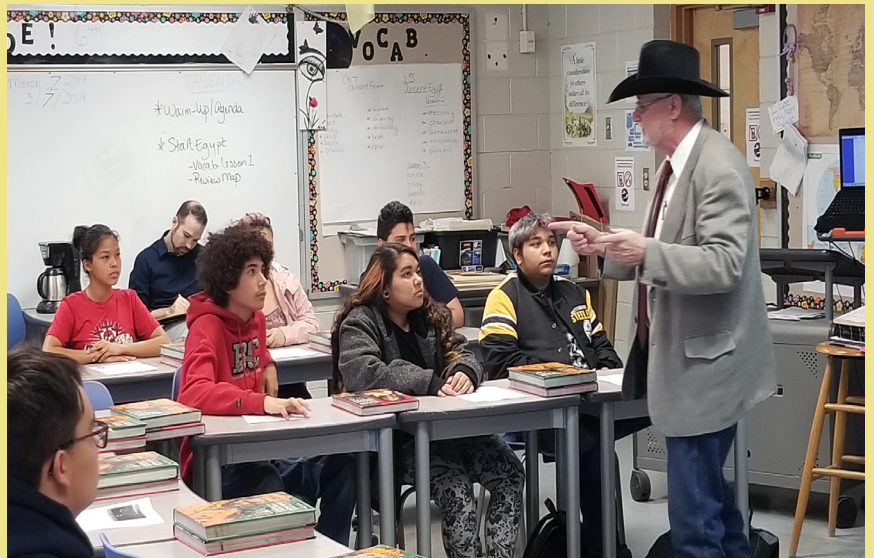
Both Rank and Nance come from a deep background of working with kids in the criminal justice system. Nance is a former southern New Mexico warden and police officer, while Rank was a practicing attorney for 30 years, and formerly served as the supervisor of the Juvenile Division at the Las Cruces Law Offices of the Public Defender.

The "Street Law" classes are part of the community school initiative begun by Lynn Middle School in 2017. The program draws in outside resources from the Las Cruces community and brings them directly to the students who need them, in an effort to encourage their overall growth and well-being. Other programs being offered as part of the community school slate include the La Mariposa girls mentoring program and a class on family development and personal communication.

"Really, this whole community school system is an opportunity to harness the wisdom and the assets we have in the community," said David Greenberg, who is the district coordinator for community schools at the Las Cruces public school district, and who helped put together the "Street Law" classes. "And it's all about bestowing that wisdom on our students here at Lynn."

"The students have really opened up and developed a deep bond with these mentors," said Greenberg. "It has uncovered some deep issues and struggles students don't have other outlets to talk about."

"Teaching these kids about criminal justice will help protect society," said Rank, "but it also has another impact: restoring young people to healthy, productive lives that are meaningful. It will let them know they have something to offer, and a deeper purpose."



Rory Rank teaches students at Lynn Middle School "Street Law" Friday, March 8, 2019, during a class at Lynn Middle School. (NMSU photo by Matthew Legarreta)

Community Outreach

Sonoma fifth graders live ‘A Day as a NMSU Student’ in second annual event

By Matthew Legarreta



Sonoma Elementary students (left to right) Mia Maes, Hannah Foster, Kambria Floyd, and April Herrod, work on a soil experiment during their time in a Geology/ Plant and Environmental Sciences class. (NMSU Photos by Josh Bachman)



Evan Martinez, Joaquin Cardenas, and Sebastian Torres, Sonoma Elementary school 5th graders working on an experiment about water retention in different types of soil (NMSU Photo by Josh Bachman)

Following the success of the program last year, the fifth-grade students of Sonoma Elementary School were once again given the chance to experience day-to-day life as a New Mexico State University student on Friday, April 5.

The “Day as an NMSU Student” event was launched in 2018 as a way to get young students to start thinking about advanced education at an earlier age. The initiative, a joint venture between NMSU and Sonoma Elementary School, was the brainchild of Monica Estrada, an NMSU alumna. Estrada was working at Sonoma Elementary as a substitute teacher when she realized just how many students at the school had never stepped foot on the NMSU campus.

“We have this amazing university at our back door that a high percentage of students had never been to,” said Estrada, who now works at Sonoma Elementary as a teacher’s assistant. “I decided I wanted to put a field trip together so the students could not just tour the campus, but get a true feel for what it is like to be a student at NMSU.”

“Monica saw that a lot of these kids don’t realize they could go to college,” said Anne Hubbell, communication studies professor at NMSU and the event’s coordinator. So many of these kids, even in fifth grade, think they have no future for themselves in college. We wanted to change that line of thinking.”



Sonoma Elementary students walk into Taos Restaurant during their visit to New Mexico State University for the Day as a NMSU Student program. (NMSU photo by Josh Bachman)

[Read more...](#)

Community Outreach

Conlee fifth graders tour the university



Over 80 fifth-grade students from Conlee Elementary School visited NMSU in April to take an in-depth look at the university. The students got to tour the backstage of the ASNMSU Center for the Arts with theater administrative assistant Susie Ouder Kirk, in addition to checking out all the fossils and exhibits on display at the Zuhl Museum.

(NMSU photos by Matthew Legarreta)



Community Outreach

Sierra Middle School students visit the Department of Journalism and Media Studies



Journalism assistant professor Darren Phillips speaks to a room full of eighth-graders about journalism and press freedom Friday, Jan. 18, at Milton Hall. (Photo by Racheal Tovar)

Approximately 75 eighth-graders from Sierra Middle School's media magnet program visited the NMSU journalism department Friday, Jan. 18.

Two groups of 35-40 students each learned about journalism and related media careers, about the Department of Journalism and Media Studies at NMSU, and engaged in a hands-on activity designed to help students discover whether they have what it takes to be real-life news reporters. Some of the topics covered in the presentations included the role and importance of the free press in a democracy, the First Amendment, media ethics, media bias and writing news leads.

Gadsden Middle School students learn about journalism

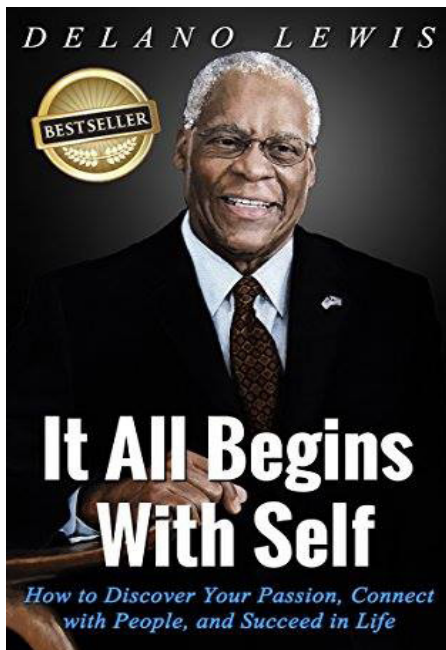
Hundreds of school children crowded into the gymnasium at Gadsden Middle School in Anthony, New Mexico, Wednesday, Feb. 6, for a career day event. Hugo Perez, a college assistant professor in the NMSU Department of Journalism and Media Studies, was on the scene to teach kids about journalism and talk to them about NMSU.



Hugo Perez shows Gadsden Middle School students how to operate a video camera Wednesday, Feb. 6, during a career day event at the school. Perez conducted hands-on, interactive demonstrations and also talked to students about careers in the journalism field. (Photo courtesy of Gadsden Middle School)

Community Outreach

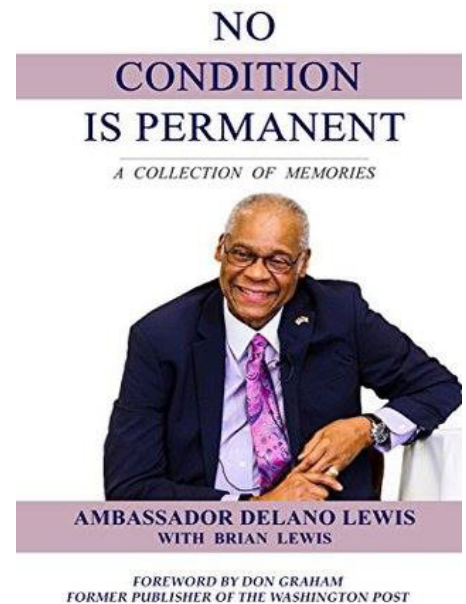
Former ambassador visits for book signing



The cover of "It All Begins With Self," a collection of advice Lewis imparts from his years in public service. (Courtesy photo)

Former United States Ambassador Delano Lewis participated in a book presentation at NMSU on Thursday, April 18. The presentation, "Passion, Power, Politics and Purpose: Lessons from a Life of Public Service" was organized by the Department of Government.

Lewis, who served as the U.S. ambassador to South Africa from 1999 to 2001, led the International Relations Institute at NMSU from 2007 to 2012. Copies of Ambassador Lewis' books were available for purchase and signing during the event.



The cover of Lewis' "No Condition Is Permanent," (Courtesy photo)

Former ambassador speaks to students

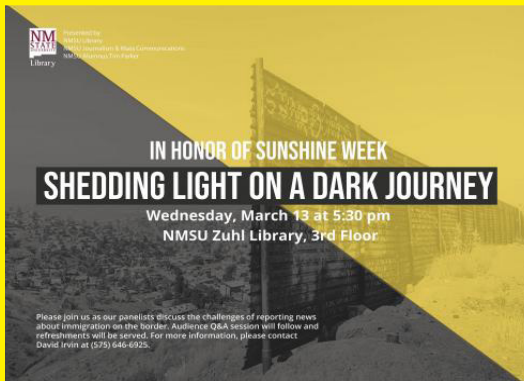
Stephen Schwartz, a former U.S. Ambassador to Somalia, sat down with all NMSU students interested in working in foreign services and with the State Department during a special "Pizza with the Ambassador" program coordinated by the government department.

Schwartz spoke of his experiences working for the State Department as ambassador to Somalia. Additionally, Schwartz shared with students insights into having a career in foreign services. Schwartz also met with members of NMSU's Model UN Team, who represented Somalia at the National Model UN Conference in March.

Later, he delivered a presentation on "Diplomatic Influence, the Global War on Terror & The Complexity of Foreign Policy Choices."



NMSU hosts Sunshine Week panel discussion on border issues



The poster for this year's Sunshine week panel event.

New Mexico State University hosted a panel "Shedding Light on a Dark Journey," in honor of Sunshine Week 2019 at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 13, at the Zuhl Library.

In its seventh year at NMSU, Sunshine Week is a national initiative that was created by the American Society of News Editors to educate the public about the importance of open government.

The NMSU Journalism and Mass Communications department, NMSU Library, and Tim Parker, an NMSU alumnus, sponsor the event.

The panel included Lauren Villagran, Searchlight New Mexico; Robert Moore, independent journalist; and Diana Alba Soular, Las Cruces Sun-News.

Native American legal expert talks about rights of indigenous peoples

The Department of Government at New Mexico State University hosted a leading expert in Native American law who answered the question: "Why do we even need a United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples?" The talk was free and open to the public.

"NMSU has a number of students with a strong interest in pursuing law-related careers," said Neil Harvey, professor and head of the Department of Government. "Robert A. Williams, Jr. is a leading scholar in the area of law and policy affecting indigenous peoples. We are fortunate to have him on campus to share his knowledge and interact with our students."

As part of a full day of events, Williams, who is a member of the Lumbee Indian Tribe and a Regents professor of law and E. Thomas Sullivan Professor of Law and faculty co-chair of the Indigenous Peoples Law and Policy Program at the University of Arizona, engaged with students in government classes, had lunch with Native American students and met with NMSU's Model UN Team members in the afternoon before the evening's community event.

"Exploring the legal history and major political developments leading to the adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in 2007, professor Williams uses the tools of critical race practice and Native storytelling traditions to explain the forces, inspiration and urgency behind the global contemporary indigenous human rights movement of the 21st century," Harvey said.



Robert A. Williams, Jr., Regents professor and E. Thomas Sullivan Professor of Law, University of Arizona, gave a talk about indigenous rights. (Courtesy photo)

Community Outreach

Our Future in Space discussed in expert panel



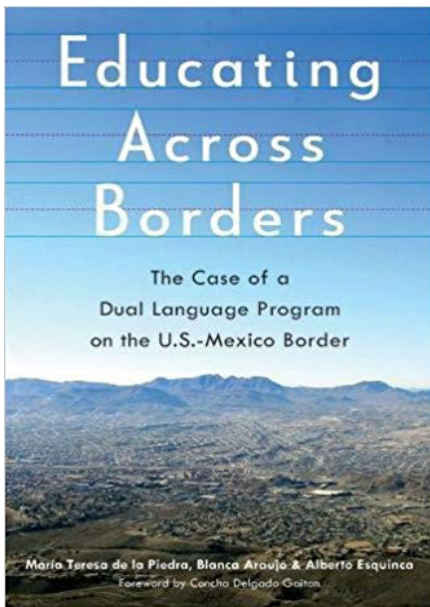
Why do we explore space? How do we explore space? Where should we explore? What are the tools for space exploration?

These were the questions asked during "Our Future in Space: The Moon and Beyond," a lecture presented by University of Colorado Boulder professor Jack Burns on March 18. Burns, a professor of astrophysics and planetary science, gave a talk to the public focused on man's lunar future.

(NMSU photos by Vladimir Avina)



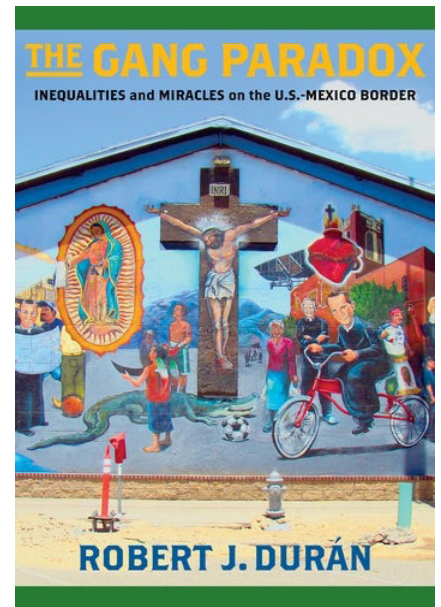
The 2019 Fabiola Cabeza De Baca Spring 2019 Speaker Series



The Fabiola Cabeza De Baca speaker series, co-sponsored by the department of Criminal Justice, the NMSU Criminal Justice Graduate Student Organization, and the DACC Public Services Department, hosted two book talks in March.

The first talk on March 5 focused on "Educating Across Borders." NMSU associate professor Blanca Araujo, who co-wrote the book, led a presentation alongside co-authors María Teresa de la Piedra and Alberto Esquinca.

On March 13, Robert J. Duran, a former NMSU professor and current Texas A&M professor, discussed his book "The Gang Paradox."



Department News



Angela Kearns, who graduated from New Mexico State University in May with a degree in computer science and mathematics, has a job waiting for her at Nike as a software engineer.

She is among the growing number of students who have helped NMSU to rank 22nd among four-year public universities in the United States (which includes more than 200 institutions) for enrolling and graduating women in computer science according to a recent data analysis compiled by “The Chronicle of Higher Education.”

“When I started college I was a declared math major, and I honestly knew nothing about computer science,” Kearns said. “Freshman year I enrolled in an introductory computer science course, and I fell in love.”

“The Chronicle” analyzes data on higher education to compare colleges on various measures and publishes its analysis in a weekly feature called “Chronicle Lists,” put together by Ruth Hammond, a senior editor. In January, the list titled “Which Colleges Are Best and Worst at Enrolling and Graduating Women in Computer Science and Engineering?” identified NMSU among the 25 best. The data is from the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, published by the U.S. Department of Education’s National Center for Education Statistics.



Angela Kearns, a computer science graduate, already has a job lined up as a software engineer at Nike.
(Photo by Karrie Lucero)

Department News

Kearns is among the women that NMSU has attracted and retained to earn a degree in computer science. For many, a key program at NMSU has created an atmosphere of community that invited women in to what has long been considered a male-dominated course of study in the U.S.

Enrico Pontelli, dean of NMSU's College of Arts and Sciences and Regents professor in computer science, credits a program he spearheaded more than 12 years ago with boosting the number of women studying computer science at NMSU. The Young Women in Computing program, part of the National Science Foundation's Broadening Participation in Computing Initiative, has directly impacted more than 13,000 students.



Esperanza Medina, graduated from NMSU in 2015 with a double major in mathematics and computer science and is now a software developer at Go Daddy. (Courtesy photo)

"The program has involved many faculty members, staff members, student researchers and school teachers," Pontelli said. "We launched the program in 2006 as a response to the realization that our numbers of undergraduate women enrolled in computer science tanked to about eight percent.

"At that time, NSF had just initiated a new program, and I was able to secure a small supplement to pilot a summer camp for high school students. We were able to expand this pilot into a broader program, inclusive of both summer and academic year experiences. That funding provided us with the opportunity to explore a variety of approaches and learn what key elements make a difference. A second NSF grant, awarded in 2014, was instrumental to formalize the core principles that underlie our efforts."

Now the percentage of women in computer science at NMSU is close to 24 percent.

[Read more...](#)



Pictured right: Group photo of middle and high school girls participating in last year's Young Women in Computing summer camp. (Courtesy photo)

NMSU to offer two new degrees in high demand computer science fields



New Mexico State University is working to satisfy the regional and the national demand for data scientists and cyber security experts through two new degrees: a professional master's degree in computational data analytics beginning in fall 2019 and a bachelor's degree in cyber security beginning in 2020.

With six-figure salaries at stake according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, and about a 1.5 million shortage worldwide of the data research scientists needed, College of Arts and Sciences Dean Enrico Pontelli described the NMSU master's degree in computational data analytics as an interdisciplinary program intended to target a broader pool of students.

"We designed it on purpose so it is accessible to anybody who has just a basic understanding of statistics," said Pontelli, who is also a Regents Professor in computer science. "It is really designed as a professional master's so anyone with a degree

in any discipline – agriculture, journalism, marketing can enter the program. They'll be able to use their skills in their field. We expect students to bring their own domain expertise, acquired during their undergraduate studies, and the new master's degree will provide them with the skills to discover how data analytics can be applied to their domain specific problems."

Faculty from NMSU's College of Business, College of Engineering and other departments in the College of Arts and Sciences created the curriculum and designed it to maximize flexibility for the students.

[Read more...](#)



Philosophy department to offer new major

By Matthew Legarreta



The New Mexico State University philosophy department faculty, from left to right: Lori Keleher, Mark Walker, Jennifer Noonan, Jean-Paul Vessel, Dana Barksdale, Justin Klocksien, and Timothy Cleveland. (NMSU photo by Josh Bachman)

The Department of Philosophy at New Mexico State University will offer a new major attractive to future lawyers starting in fall 2019.

The major, formally titled “Justice, Political Philosophy, and Law,” will explore theories and ideas surrounding the law, and the legal institutions that enforce it. Some of the planned areas of concentration include legal policy, global justice, ethical theory and human rights issues.

“The major will be unique in this region,” said Mark Walker, the acting head of the philosophy department. “The University of Southern California’s major is geographically the closest school that offers something similar. But ours will be the only program in the region where students can attend at the in-state tuition rate.”

[Read more...](#)

NMSU offering revamped degree aimed at working professionals

By Matthew Legarreta

The Interdisciplinary Studies Department in the College of Arts and Sciences at New Mexico State University is launching a revised degree in fall 2019 to streamline the process of earning a bachelor’s degree of applied studies, aimed at those who already hold an applied associate’s degree.

The relaunched degree plan will change the number of upper division credits required for students who already have an associate’s degree in applied sciences from another institution, such as the four NMSU community colleges around the state.

Under the new degree plan, these students can now earn a bachelor’s degree in applied studies after taking 36 upper division courses – twelve fewer than the 48 required to graduate in other degree programs, while meeting all other standard requirements for graduation.



[Read more...](#)

NM governor tours CMI facility

New Mexico Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham toured the College of Arts and Sciences' Creative Media Institute in Milton Hall on May 20. The governor met with faculty and graduate students and toured classrooms and labs, where students were creating and editing film projects. She also was shown short films produced by CMI students.

(NMSU photos by Josh Bachman)



Journalism students get first hand experience

Six New Mexico State University journalism students spent the day with high-ranking officers at Fort Bliss. They were part of a cooperative effort between Joint Task Force North at Fort Bliss in El Paso and the Department of Journalism and Media Studies in NMSU's College of Arts and Sciences.

Joint Task Force North, based at Biggs Army Airfield at Fort Bliss is the Department of Defense organization tasked to support our nation's federal law enforcement agencies in the interdiction of suspected transnational threats within and along the approaches to the continental United States.



NMSU journalism students visit Biggs Field at Fort Bliss for a media training exercise. (Courtesy Photo)

Students participated in a media training exercise on Friday, April 12 in which the officers were given different scenarios concerning accidents, shootings and other possible trouble at the U.S.– Mexico border. After learning the scenarios, they faced the student journalists for interviews. The officers learned what it's like to be interviewed at a moment's notice in one-on-one and news conference settings, and the students had the opportunity to hone their interviewing skills.

[Read more...](#)

Department News

Renowned artists visit NMSU

The Department of Art brought four working artists to NMSU as part of their Visting Lecture Series. The artists were all on-hand to answer questions and lecture on the subjects of their works.

Kicking off the series for the year was Larry Bob Philips, a current Roswell Artist-in-Residence, who conducted a talk on February 13. Following Philips was Joseph Qwist, another artist-in-residence in Roswell, who lectured about his work in ceramic sculpturing on February 27.

Christopher Baldwin, a comic book artist primarily known for his work on comics such as “Bruno” and “One Way,” spoke to students and the public about his work on April 4. The same day, another Roswell Artist-in-Residence, Cedra Wood, conducted a lecture about her work as a painter and performer.

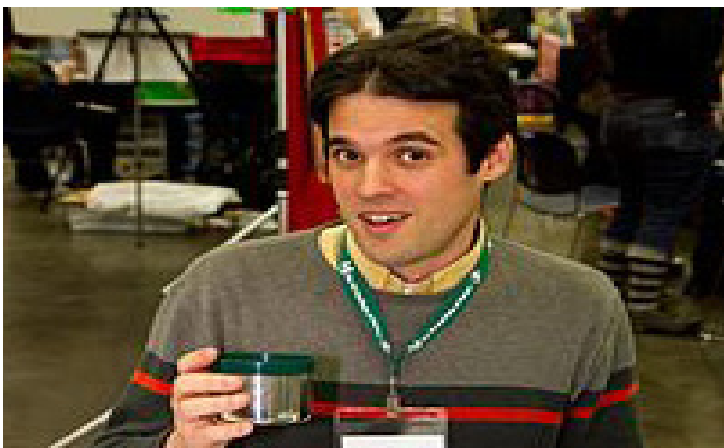
All lectures were held at the ASNMSU Center for the Arts, and were sponsored by the NMSU Department of Art with funding paid for by the Lillian Steinman Visiting Arts Fund.



Larry Bob Phillips, the first artist invited by the art department as part of their Visiting Artist Lecture Series. (Courtesy photo)



Joseph Qwist, the second artist invited by the art department as part of their Visiting Artist Lecture Series. (Courtesy photo)



Christopher Baldwin, the third artist invited by the art department as part of their Visiting Artist Lecture Series. (Courtesy photo)



Cedra Wood, the fourth and final artist invited by the art department as part of their Visiting Artist Lecture Series. (Courtesy photo)

Development News

College of Arts and Sciences holds reception to honor scholarship recipients, donors



Donor Mary Beth Reinhart, center, who sponsors the Lieutenant Colonel William J. Reinhart II and Lt. Colonel Max L. Piper Memorial Scholarships, pictured with this year's scholarship recipients. (NMSU photo by Mike Jones)

On April 25 at the Stan Fulton Athletic Center, the College of Arts and Sciences hosted the first annual scholarship reception. Featuring over 100 donors and students, the mission of the event was to connect donors with their students and thank donors for their generosity. Other members of the NMSU administration and faculty were in attendance for what is planned to be a now yearly event.



Warren and Heather Pollard, pictured bottom right, with the recipients of the Elizabeth Ayres Pollard Endowment (NMSU Photo by Mike Jones)



Donors Jag and Linda Cheema (bottom left) alongside donor Glenn D. Kuehn (bottom right), with the recipients of their science focused scholarships. (NMSU Photo by Mike Jones)

NMSU alumnus, wife create scholarship for Hispanic students to explore law careers



José and Joan Uranga started their second scholarship to at NMSU in order to increase the number of Hispanic students at NMSU who pursue career pathways in law. (Courtesy photo)

A new scholarship in the Department of Government at New Mexico State University works to inspire and broaden career exploration for Hispanic students.

The José N. and Joan T. Uranga Law Endowed Scholarship is the second NMSU scholarship funded by José Uranga and his wife Joan. Both scholarships focus on increasing the number of Hispanic students who pursue career pathways currently underrepresented by Hispanic professionals.

“This is our way of giving back, but it’s not only to support students financially,” said José, a 1969 NMSU alumnus and retired environmental lawyer. “These scholarships, we hope, will incentivize students to take certain courses that will whet their appetites for careers in law or education.”

[Read more...](#)

Emeritus physics professor, wife create scholarship for physics students

A loyal Aggie couple has established a new, transformational scholarship to assist graduate students studying physics at New Mexico State University. George H. and Barbara Goedecke funded the scholarship with the goal to make NMSU’s physics program more competitive with other universities.

“For over three decades, George and Barbara provided motivation and emotional support to our students,” said Heinz Nakotte, interim physics department head. “The Goedecke’s scholarship will help to continue that spirit.”

“With this gift, the Goedeckes are only growing the number of NMSU students they have helped and will help for many years to come,” said Tina Byford, interim vice president of University Advancement. “For more than 50 years, this couple has taught, mentored and nurtured hundreds of students. We are humbled by their continued gifts of time and resources.”

[Read more...](#)



George and Barbara Goedecke meet one of their scholarship recipients at a dedication ceremony for a conference room named in their honor. (NMSU Photo by Angel Mendez)

Development News

Las Cruces resident creates five NMSU scholarships for students



Frances Williams (second from left) introduces three new scholarships she created on #GivingTuesday to support female NMSU students in STEM, technical trades and history.

On #GivingTuesday in 2017, Frances Williams started two endowed scholarships to support students at New Mexico State University. In her words, it was merely “a spark” toward #GivingTuesday in 2018 where she endowed three more scholarships.

“My mother, an immigrant from Warsaw, Poland, always told me that education is important – it’s second to God,” Williams said. “Without it, you’re not going anywhere, and that’s why I wanted to support these students.”

All three of her recent scholarships, which are all named after her children and daughter-in-law, show preference to female students and incentivize their educational pursuit in the fields of STEM, technical trades and history.

Her original endowment, the Frances Williams Endowed Scholarship, focused on helping library student-employees who also major in history or study in the College of Arts and Sciences’ Creative Media Institute.

[Read more...](#)

Art gallery hosts Friends party for Valentine’s Day



The release poster for the art gallery's Valentine's Day fundraising event. (Courtesy photo)

Pop-up speed dating, a kissing photo booth and much more was on display for the fourth annual “I Heart Art” Valentine’s Day Party at the University Art Gallery at New Mexico State University.

This was the last ‘Friends’ event in the old University Art Gallery building, with all funds raised at the event going towards programming in the new University Art Museum in Devasthali Hall, which is scheduled to open in the fall. Friends of the UAG memberships and volunteer contributions are important to support the gallery’s exhibitions, collections, and educational programs year round.

Giving to the College of Arts and Sciences

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Historic newspapers on display in Milton Hall



Historic newspaper page fronts appear on permanent display in a Milton Hall corridor. The newspapers were a gift from NMSU employee Carol Meyers to the Department of Journalism and Media Studies. (Photo by Darren Phillips)



Carol Meyers clutches a photo of her late mother, Iris Louisa Meyers, whose collection of old newspapers is now on display in Milton Hall. (Photo by Darren Phillips)

Carol Meyers remembers her mom as a history buff and news junkie. She read the newspaper every day with her morning coffee and was known to friends and family as a lifelong student of history, geography and current events. “She just knew everything,” Meyers said.

Perhaps this is why it came as no surprise to Meyers when she stumbled upon a stash of old newspapers in her mom’s closet. The newspapers were folded and wrapped neatly in brown paper and plastic. Once she unwrapped them, the front-page headlines jumped out at her immediately. “Terror in America” read the front-page headline in a special edition of the Las Cruces Sun-News. The date: September 11, 2001.

Meyers, an NMSU alumna who works as an administrative assistant in the Journalism department, knew right away where the five newspapers should go. “I just thought how coincidental that I work in journalism and I’m finding these papers that I think would be great additions to the department,” Meyers said.

[Read more...](#)

Drug discovered by NMSU scientist could lead to new cancer treatments



Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry Regent's professor Jeffrey Arterburn.

By Michelle Sequiera

Fifteen years after a chance meeting started their partnership, a compound Jeffrey Arterburn, and Eric Prossnitz discovered may lead to new skin cancer treatments.

Arterburn, a Regents professor in chemistry and biochemistry at New Mexico State University, and Prossnitz, a professor in the Department of Internal Medicine at The University of New Mexico Comprehensive Cancer Center, met after a regional scientific conference in 2003. Arterburn told Prossnitz about some compounds he had developed that might help Prossnitz's research. The two quickly realized that their work dovetailed nicely.

Arterburn, a medicinal chemist, had derived compounds from estrogen that Prossnitz could further modify to make fluorescent. The molecules lit up under a microscope, allowing scientists to see where their receptors were displayed on cells. Arterburn could further change the compounds' properties by adding or removing atoms from their molecules.

Prossnitz, a molecular biologist, was studying breast cancer cells and their receptors. He was particularly interested in why some women who initially respond to breast cancer drugs later develop resistance to them, allowing the cancer to recur. When it does, it usually recurs more aggressively.

Prossnitz's lab had discovered a receptor called GPER on the surface of breast cancer cells, which, when triggered by estrogen, increased the cells' cancerous behavior. Prossnitz was looking for a method to control how GPER responded; Arterburn's compounds would help him see how the receptor interacted with estrogen.

So, with a pilot grant from the Cowboys for Cancer Research Foundation, the two began working together. Arterburn would create compounds in his lab and send them to Prossnitz for testing. The pilot funding would eventually lead to more than \$8 million in research support, but those initial dollars meant a lot. "Those were personal donations," Arterburn says. "People have lost [loved ones] or been affected by cancer."

The pilot funds paid for the specialized substances and personnel they needed to carry out their first experiments. "Every nickel of that money goes right into supporting research," Arterburn says.

Using Arterburn's molecules, Prossnitz discovered that GPER responded to breast cancer drugs that shut down the estrogen receptor in the nucleus of ER-positive breast cancer cells. He showed that some of these same drugs also activated survival and growth signals in cells through GPER.

Grants and Research



Eric Prossnitz, (left) University of New Mexico professor in the Department of Internal Medicine, and chief of the Division of Molecular Medicine, with Jeffrey Arterburn, Regents' professor in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry at the New Mexico State University. (UNM courtesy photo)

Prossnitz and Arterburn worked with Larry Sklar, who leads UNM's Center for Molecular Discovery, to find two molecules that greatly affected how GPER responds. One, called an agonist, activates the receptor. The other, called an antagonist, shuts it down.

To find the first compound, they screened a collection of 10,000 molecules. But to save time and effort, they enlisted help from UNM colleagues Tudor Oprea, and Cristian Bologa, who applied computational biology techniques to narrow down the search. "Instead of physically testing 10,000 compounds, we physically tested the top 100," Prossnitz says. "They cut our work down a hundred-fold."

Prossnitz, Arterburn and their colleagues obtained a patent for the compounds in 2011. Then, in 2017, a start-up company called Linnaeus contacted UNM.STC, a non-profit that oversees the transfer of UNM-developed technology. Linnaeus wanted to license the agonist for use in combination with immune therapy for melanoma.

Melanoma, like breast and some other cancers, was shown to respond to estrogen. Linnaeus' founders' initial studies suggested that the combination of the GPER agonist and immunotherapy might help the body destroy melanoma more effectively.

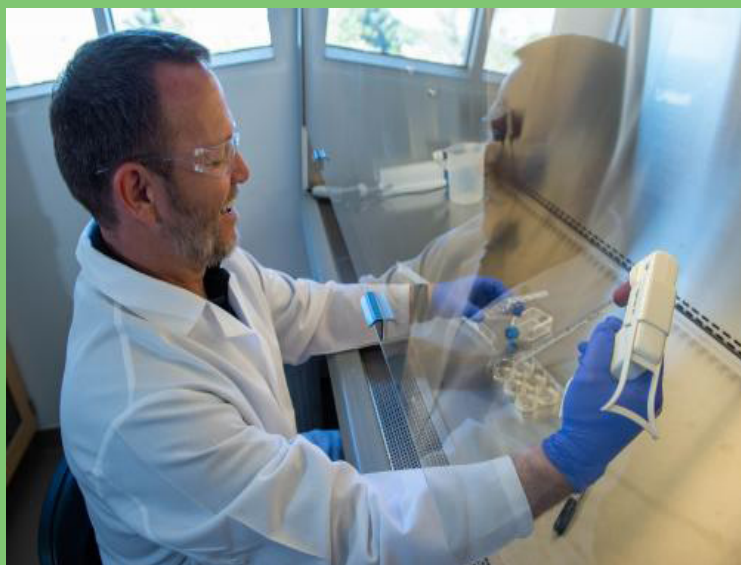
Linnaeus is currently carrying out pre-clinical studies. If they go well, Linnaeus will begin human trials at a few sites around the country, led by the UNM Comprehensive Cancer Center.

"This could be the first example of UNM basic research in cancer that goes from initial drug discovery and cell biology to clinical trials," Prossnitz says. "It's always a long shot." But he and Arterburn hope it one day could change cancer treatment.

NMSU professor awarded \$1.48 million to study key to cancer drug's resistance

Tamoxifen has been used for more than 40 years to treat early stage, locally advanced and metastatic breast cancers. It may be beneficial for many patients, but it doesn't work for everyone. But while involved in other research at New Mexico State University, chemistry and biochemistry professor Kevin Houston, discovered a key to what causes resistance to this drug. His progress has resulted in a recent \$1.48 million, 4-year grant from the National Institutes of Health to take his research to the next level.

Houston and his team were studying steroid hormone signaling through an estrogen receptor called G protein-coupled estrogen receptor. They happened to notice when they treated breast cancer cells with tamoxifen, it increased the level of a secreted protein called insulin-like growth factor binding protein 1.



NMSU chemistry and biochemistry professor Kevin Houston in his lab in the at New Mexico State University. (NMSU photo by Josh Bachman)



Kevin Houston, NMSU chemistry and biochemistry professor, points to growing cancer cells that he has grown in his lab. (NMSU photo by Josh Bachman)

"This was interesting to me, not because of what we were studying, but because what I knew about breast cancer and the role of insulin-like growth factor in breast cancer proliferation," Houston said. "We started pursuing it, little by little, and it turns out that this G protein-coupled estrogen receptor is important for tamoxifen to be able to increase the level of this binding protein, which inhibits breast cancer cell proliferation."

Houston was working with Jeffrey Arterburn, NMSU Regents professor of chemistry and biochemistry, when he made his initial discovery. The New Mexico IDeA Networks of Biomedical Research Excellence and Cowboys for Cancer Research were the first to fund Houston's research into tamoxifen resistance.

"The funding environment is extremely competitive, so this is really a great accomplishment," Arterburn said. "It is also an example of how important seed grants and developmental funding are to enable young faculty to get their research projects going so that they have the publications and convincing data that will enable their grants to withstand the rigorous review process. The faculty in the chemistry and biochemistry department are all very happy and proud of Kevin for bringing in this important new grant, and wish him great success with this cancer research project."

Grants and Research

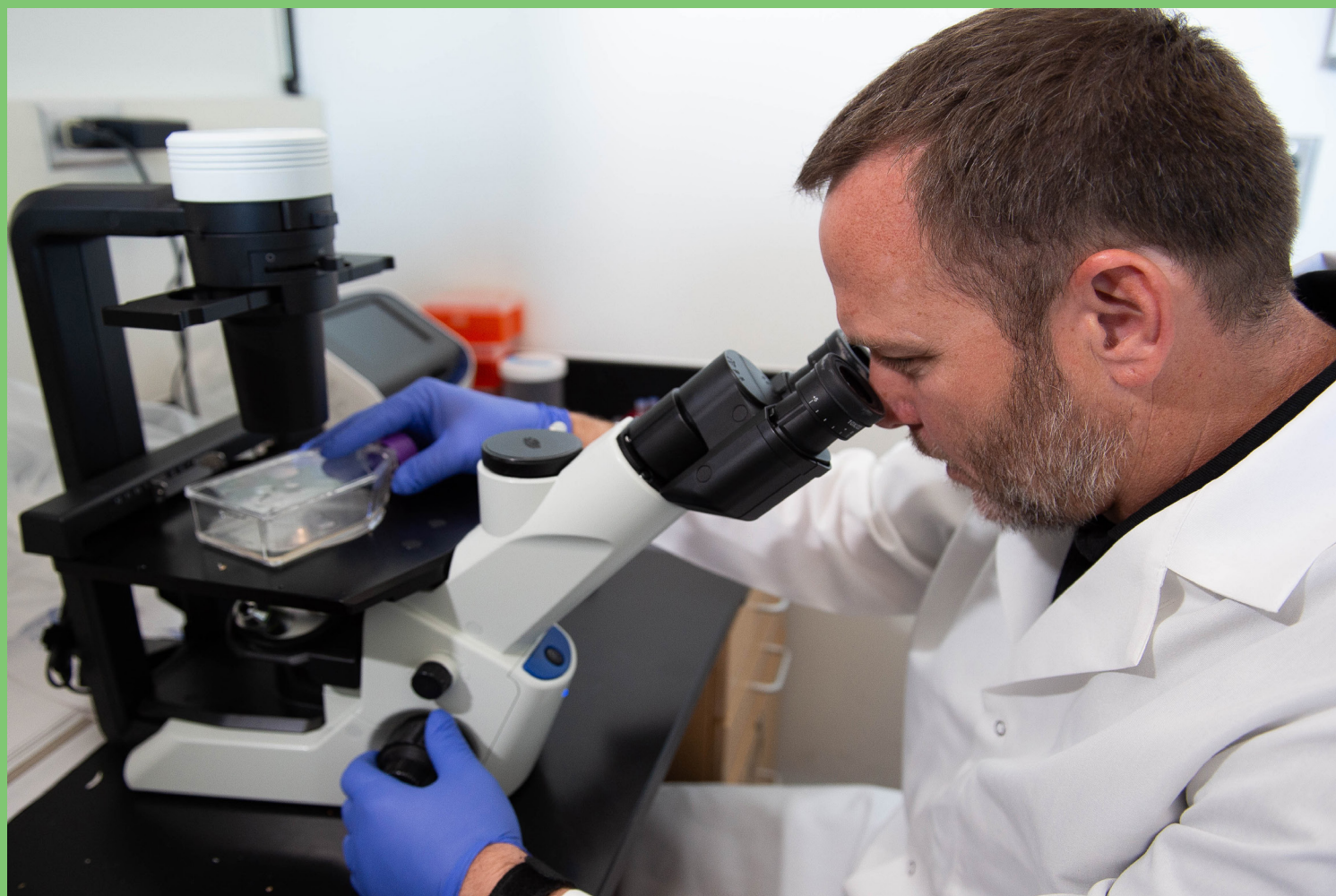
Some breast cancer patients do not respond to tamoxifen treatment at all and most patients will develop resistance. In his lab, Houston has developed tamoxifen resistant cells with binding protein, but the new grant will allow him to take his research much further.

“There are six binding proteins and we’ve only looked at one, and we want to understand how the other five binding proteins might be involved in tamoxifen treatment and resistance,” Houston said. “We also are going to study how binding protein 1 can change how classic estrogen receptors function. We have evidence we want to pursue as part of this grant showing how binding protein 1 changes estrogen’s ability to signal in the cells.”

“Our third aim is to try to understand how the growth factor signaling pathways are involved in crosstalk. There are many receptors in cells. We have evidence that one of these receptors fundamentally changes in tamoxifen resistant cells.”

There are two other receptors Houston’s team has observed fundamentally change: EGFR and IGF-2 receptors. Through his research they want to discover how the three receptors work together in tamoxifen resistance. The NIH grant will allow Houston to hire a postdoctoral fellow along with two or three graduate students. He also invites four or five undergraduate students to participate in his lab. Houston knows first hand how involvement in research as an undergraduate can have a significant impact.

[Read more...](#)



NMSU chemistry and biochemistry professor Kevin Houston in his lab where he is researching tamoxifen resistance. (NMSU photo by Josh Bachman)

NIH renews 18-year-old STEM program for another 5 years, takes new direction



Michele Nishiguchi, Regents professor, Academic Department head of Biology and a principal investigator for the RISE 5 program. (Photo by Darren Phillips)

New Mexico State University's RISE to the Post doctorate Program has generated nearly two decades of success in supporting underrepresented minority students to earn advanced degrees in biomedical fields. Building on that success, the National Institutes of Health has renewed NMSU's grant for five more years with \$3.6 million to expand the program in innovative ways by engaging NMSU students in integrated biology and engineering research.

"As the world becomes more and more interdisciplinary, we are interested in teaching our students not what they will need today, but what they will need in 10 or 15 years," said Igor Sevostianov, mechanical engineering professor and one of the principal investigators for the program. "Talking about Ph.D. students, we're going to prepare them in such a manner that, at least, they will be able to get postdoctoral positions in top national universities."

Sevostianov and Michele Nishiguchi, Regents professor, Academic Department head of Biology and a principal investigator for the grant, will be working together developing new interdisciplinary courses drawing between engineering and biology disciplines. Both will teach an interdisciplinary course in biological materials, as well as organizing and developing workshops and courses offered by other faculty from various

Colleges across the university that emphasize biomedical, biobehavioral, and bioengineering disciplines.

"Engineering is now becoming a more intricate part of biomedicine and biobehavioral work," said Nishiguchi. "That's the new direction for RISE 5: We're still encompassing biomedical, biobehavioral aspects that include biology and biochemistry and traditional biological sciences, but now we're including the engineering college in training our next generation of STEM scientists."

[Read more...](#)



Pictured left: Igor Sevostianov, NMSU mechanical engineering professor and one of the principal investigators for the RISE 5 program. (Photo by Minerva Baumann)

Pictured right: NMSU College of Engineering Dean Lakshmi N. Reddi is a principal investigator for the RISE 5 program. (Photo by Victoria



NMSU, NMDOH study finds insecticide-resistant mosquitoes across state

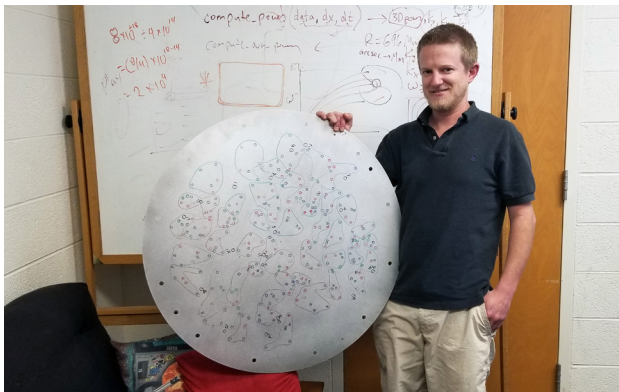
New Mexico State University researchers collaborating with the New Mexico Department of Health recently published a paper that shows there is widespread resistance to insecticides in one type of mosquito found in southern New Mexico – *Aedes aegypti*, the yellow fever mosquito.

Researchers in the College of Arts and Sciences Department of Biology say insecticide resistance is a serious problem, which evolves in insect populations when they are repeatedly exposed to the same type of insecticide or insecticides. This resistance can undermine public health. This study characterized for the first time insecticide resistance of the yellow fever mosquito across New Mexico.

“With climate change, New Mexico will increasingly be seeing mosquito-borne disease,” said NMDOH State Epidemiologist Michael Landen. “This paper provides an important warning of how insecticide resistance in the state will complicate our ability to control these diseases and that we need to work on alternatives.”

[Read more...](#)

NMSU researcher’s discovery nearly triples known highly magnetic stars



NMSU astronomy graduate student Drew Chojnowski holds a plate utilized to pinpoint different stars. The plate, an essential “map of the sky,” is loaded into the telescope at Apache Point Observatory, and was a key element in studying the highly magnetic stars at the center of Chojnowski’s discovery. (NMSU photo by Matthew Legarreta)

a giant leap after a long period of relative silence in the field.”

[Read more....](#)



Kalli Martinez, Project manager for a New Mexico State University study of mosquitoes in urban areas, inspects a container with trapped mosquitoes while working in the field in Las Cruces as part of a study funded by the New Mexico Department of Health. (NMSU photo by Andres Leighton)

Using data collected by the Sloan Digital Sky Survey telescope located at nearby Apache Point Observatory, a graduate student in the College of Arts and Sciences at New Mexico State University has discovered a vast array of highly magnetic – and rather unexplainable – stars.

Thanks to NMSU Department of Astronomy Ph.D. student Drew Chojnowski’s research, there is now much more to discover about the nature of these highly magnetic stars.

“These findings almost triple the number of these stars that are known,” Chojnowski said. “Previously, we only knew of 84 stars that were like this, but now we have this bigger sample of about 240 stars. This gives a much larger sample that people can use to determine other parameters of the stars, and try to find correlations from that data. So it’s

NMSU exhibition displays ancient Mimbres pottery in ‘Living In Sacred Continuum’

Spectacular pottery designed and crafted by people of the Mimbres Valley and surrounding areas from A.D. 1000 to 1130 was put on display at the American Indian Student Center at New Mexico State University. The exhibition, “Living In Sacred Continuum”, began on April 26 and will remain on display through December 15. A panel of Native American artists also shared their interpretations about the pottery’s designs during a panel discussion April 26 at the American Indian Student Center.



The exhibition is the result of research NMSU Anthropology professor and director of the University Museum Fumi Arakawa conducted in collaboration with professor Atsunori Ito at the National Museum of Ethnology (Minpaku) in Japan. Ito and Arakawa began the research by meeting with Hopi arts and in hopes of hearing their interpretations about the meanings of the designs on the ancient vessels. Arakawa spent eight months in Japan engaged in a fellowship at Minpaku working on the project.

Mimbres, which means “willows” in Spanish, is the name given to the river in southwestern New Mexico where the Mimbres branch of the Mogollon people lived. Mimbres pottery is considered among the finest examples of prehistoric pottery ever made.

In September through December, Arakawa will host each of the five Hopi artists who will give a workshop and/or lecture at the University Museum in the Kent Hall courtyard/auditorium.

[Read more...](#)



Latest ‘Art in Public Places’ piece at NMSU seeking student participation



Rendering of what the final project “Mine Mirror” will look like in the computer room of Hardman and Jacobs Undergraduate Learning Center. (Rendering Courtesy Sarah Schönfeld and architects Zeller & Moyer)

By the time students come back for the spring 2020 semester, a computer lab in Hardman Jacobs Undergraduate Learning Center will be home to the latest “Art in Public Places” piece to be installed at New Mexico State University.

It’s called “Mine Mirror.” Created by artist Sarah Schönfeld and architects Zeller & Moyer, the artwork will consist of mirrors made of hard drives full of data from NMSU students who are encouraged to upload everything from thesis papers to lecture notes -- anything they learned or gained knowledge about turned into art.

“Knowledge is the very base of any university,” Schönfeld said. “We are using it in an abstract yet concrete way in our wall sculpture. Firstly, we store the collected information on hard drives. After being melted and evaporated into mirrors, the data will be not readable anymore, but it will be transformed into abstract reflective surfaces that open up perspectives and will allow students on their desks to look up from their screens and to interact with them.”

The creators call the piece a site-specific intervention composed of three main elements: students, knowledge and the architectural environment. The proposal for “Mine Mirror” describes the final installed artwork a multi-faceted pattern designed in a way such that computer users in the lab can see each other in panes of the three-dimensional mirror structure. The mirror landscape visualizes the participatory aspect of individuals coming together to work collectively on knowledge production. Simultaneously, users are offered a new perspective on their own activities in the form of a playful and non-digital experience.

Hundreds of people contributed their data to the drives and the aluminum and other alloys have been extracted through a process known as urban mining. These alloys are in the process of being transformed into mirrors with a process used for producing telescopic mirrors. The installation is expected to begin in December and be completed by the spring semester.

[Read more...](#)

Entertainment

Spring 2019 Music Department Performances

New Mexico State University Department of Music

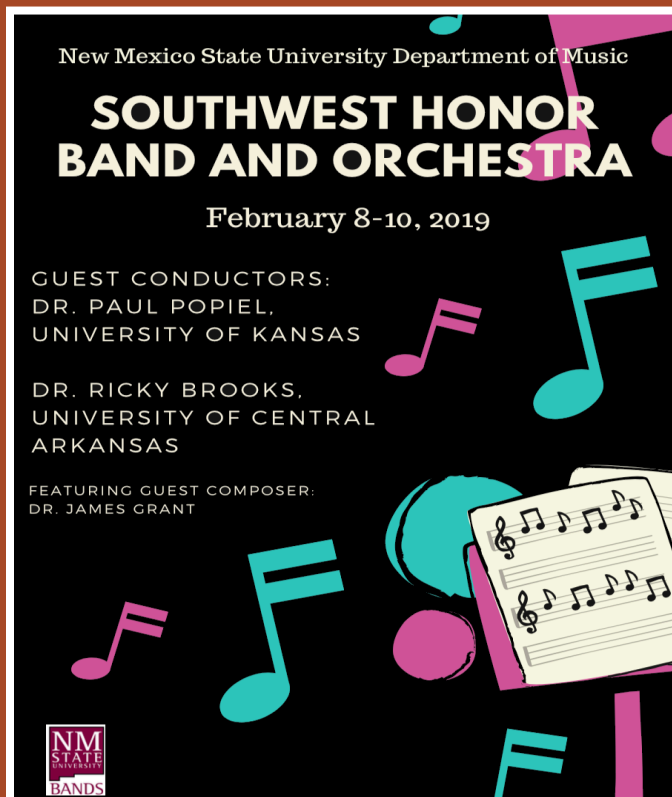
SOUTHWEST HONOR BAND AND ORCHESTRA

February 8-10, 2019

GUEST CONDUCTORS:
DR. PAUL POPIEL,
UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS

DR. RICKY BROOKS,
UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL
ARKANSAS

FEATURING GUEST COMPOSER:
DR. JAMES GRANT



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February 26 & 27, 2019
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PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

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OF MEXICO
IN EL PASO

P R E S E N T

MUSIC BEYOND BORDERS

1 18:00h
FRIDAY
MARCH

Atkinson Recital Hall
NMSU Music Center 1075 N. Horseshoe
Las Cruces, New Mexico

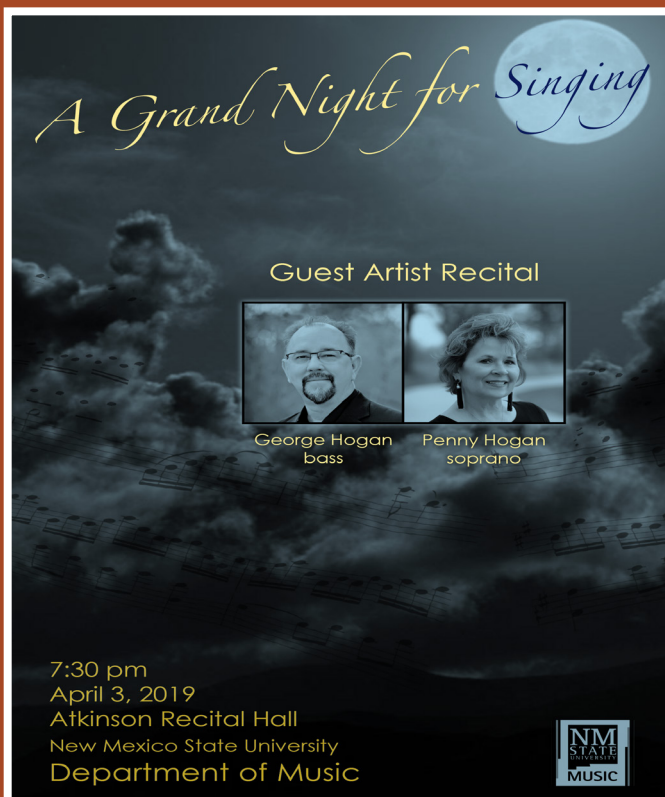
Conductors:
Leonardo Jove García Montoya
OSEA Juárez Juvenil
Simon Gollo
NMSU Philharmonic Orchestra

Free Admission



A Grand Night for Singing

Guest Artist Recital



George Hogan
bass

Penny Hogan
soprano

7:30 pm
April 3, 2019
Atkinson Recital Hall
New Mexico State University
Department of Music

NM STATE UNIVERSITY MUSIC

Spring 2019 Exhibits at the Art Gallery

Light Tricks

Husband and wife team Julie Alpert and Andy Arkley presented “Light Tricks” at the University Art Gallery in Spring 2019, with an opening reception from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 31. The display ran from then until March 3.

The exhibition included installations, sculpture, drawing and interactive video-based artwork that used light in various forms -- projecting, reflecting and emitting nostalgic mood throughout a space.

[Read more...](#)



A video tour of the “Light Tricks” exhibit hosted at the Art Gallery in Spring 2019. (Video by Matthew Legarreta)

Juried Student Show



Brittany Marie Chavez' video titled “Clothesline” is among the works featured in the Juried Student Show at the University Art Gallery at NMSU. (Courtesy Photo)

The annual Juried Student Show kicked off 5:30 p.m. Thursday, March 14 with an opening reception at the Art Gallery. The show served as an opportunity for the community to get an up-close look at the artistic talents of NMSU students.

The Juried Student Show will feature 41 individual pieces of work from both undergraduate and graduate students at the university. The pieces were chosen from artwork all across the campus.

[Read more...](#)

Thesis Art Exhibition

The University Art Gallery presented two new exhibitions: “dis-continuum: 2019 MFA Thesis Exhibition,” featuring the work of Master of Fine Art candidates; and “Reveries: 2019 BFA Thesis Exhibition,” from Bachelor of Fine Arts candidates.

Both exhibitions opened during a collaborative reception on Friday, April 26 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the UAG, and remained on display through May 11.

[Read more...](#)



“S.O.O.N.” a mixed-media piece by artist Fernando Enriquez, will feature in “dis-continuum: 2019 MFA Thesis Exhibition, (Courtesy photo)

Spring 2019 Theatre Department Performances



Silent Sky

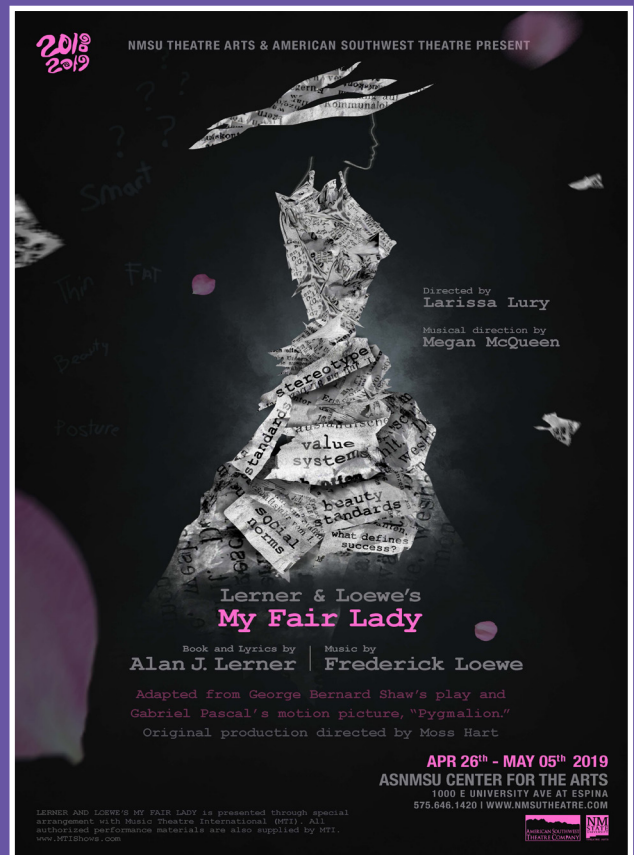
On Feb. 22 and 23, and March 1, 2, and 3, the NMSU theatre department and American Southwest Theatre presented "Silent Sky," a play from Lauren Gunderson and directed by NMSU associate professor Claudia Billings.

The incredible true story of how boundary-shattering New England astronomer Henrietta Leavitt traded the comforts of her rural home for a job at the Harvard Observatory in Massachusetts, "Silent Sky" starred five NMSU students (Jaidan Jaramillo, Jenna Ivey, E. Gallegos, Molly Schafer, and Isaac Lucero) in the lead roles.

My Fair Lady

Famed musical "My Fair Lady" was selected as the final performance for the NMSU theatre department in the Fall 2018-Spring 2019 season.

Based on the acclaimed musical by the Lerner and Loewe eponymous, the NMSU production was performed April 25 - May 5. The production starred NMSU students Jenna Ivey, Adam Logan, and Isaac Lucero, with direction by NMSU assistant professor Larissa Lury. The production, like all production from the NMSU theatre productions this semester, was hosted at the ASNMSU Center for the Arts.



Global connections in Spring 2019

The latest installment in the “Global Connections” seminar series at New Mexico State University centered on a recent trip into the mountains of Central Asia conducted by NMSU Department of Geological Sciences assistant professor Reed Burgette.

The talk, titled “Building the Heavenly Mountains: Geology and Culture in the Tien Shan of Kyrgyzstan,” took place March 13. The presentation reflected on Burgette’s experience traveling to the region in the summer of 2016.

Burgette, alongside then-NMSU graduate student Jascha Coddington, traveled to the Tien Shan in order to study the deformation of the mountains in the area, which are actively growing.

[Read more...](#)



Two College of Arts and Sciences professors shared their experiences leading a group of students on a trip to Ireland for the “Global Connections” seminar series.

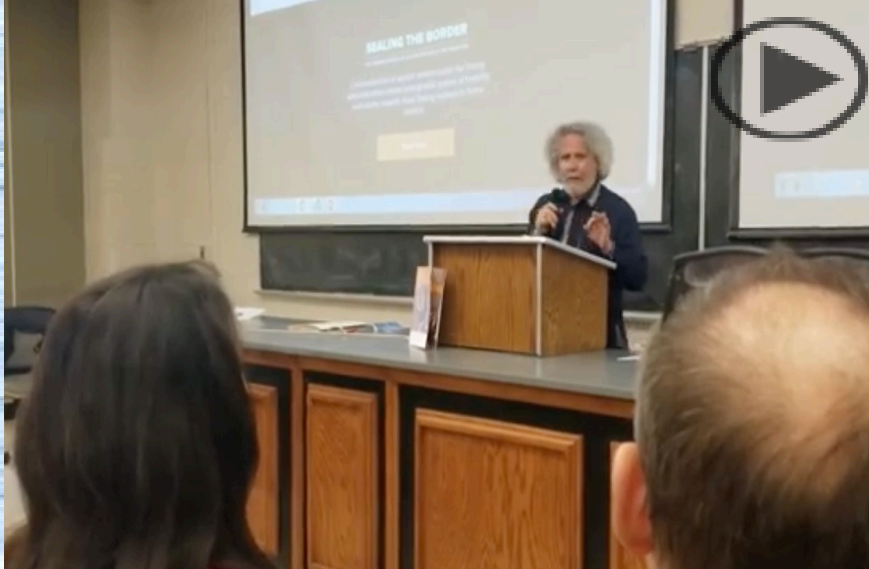
Dan Dugas, assistant professor of geography, and Eric Morgan, associate professor of communication studies, presented “Meaning and Place in Ireland” on Feb. 13.

During the presentation, Dugas and Morgan discussed their recent trip to the Emerald Isle, in which they led a group of nine students in a two week long, immersive course that explored the intercultural communication and physical geography of the region.

[Read more...](#)



15th annual J. Paul Taylor Social Justice Symposium spotlights migrants



Camilo Perez Bustillo from the Hope Border Institute in El Paso took a historical perspective on the current immigration issues impacting our border in the opening panel of the 2019 J. Paul Taylor Symposium. (Video by Matthew Legarreta)

"Justice for Migrants" was the theme of the 2019 J. Paul Taylor Social Justice Symposium April 11-12 at New Mexico State University. The symposium will feature panels of experts tackling the subjects dominating national news about the treatment of migrants on our southern border. Members of the community from Las Cruces and the region participated in the event.

"The goal of this symposium is to reflect on the philosophical values, public narratives and community organizing that go in to the defense and promotion of human rights of immigrants, residents of border communities, DREAMers, asylum seekers and all migrants in Mexico

and the US," said Neil Harvey, professor and department head of government. "The symposium brings together university researchers, community-based advocates, reporters and students to share their own philosophical perspectives and experiences regarding the promotion of justice for migrants."

Named for a respected former state representative and educator, the J. Paul Taylor Symposium started in 2005 when Taylor suggested strategies for bringing resources of the university to address problems faced by underserved populations in the southwest.



Acting philosophy department head Mark Walker kicking off the J. Paul Taylor Social Justice Symposium (NMSU photo by Matthew Legarreta)



Philosophy associate professor Lori Keleher presenting during the 2019 J. Paul Taylor Social Justice Symposium. (NMSU photo by Matthew Legarreta)

Events



J. Paul Taylor himself speaking about the importance and origins of the symposium during the event's closing discussion. (NMSU photo by Matthew Legarreta)



At the 2019 symposium, Adrian Aguirre, a local artist and NMSU employee/alumnus, was honored with the NMSU Department of Government Social Justice Award. (Courtesy photo)



Ruben Garcia, executive director of Annunciation House. (Courtesy photo)

This year's symposium was hosted by NMSU's College of Arts and Sciences, the Office of the Vice President for Research, Department of Philosophy and Department of Government with generous support from the Guadalupe Institute.

The "Justice for Migrants" event began with a panel discussion from 3:30-5:30 p.m. Thursday, April 11 at Gardiner Hall, Room 230. Panelists include NMSU professors Harvey and Lori Keleher, philosophy professor as well as David Holtby from the Guadalupe Institute in Albuquerque, Camilo Perez Bustillo from the Hope Border Institute in El Paso, Blanca Adriana Ontiveros from the New Mexico Dream Team and Nancy Oretskin from the Southwest Asylum and Migration Institute.

The annual Social Justice Awards reception and keynote address followed from 6-8 p.m. During this event, the Department of Government Social Justice Award was given to Adrian Aguirre, a local artist and NMSU alumnus, who created a series of portraits of migrant workers he spent a year with called "Jornaleros" meant to help people relate to the migrant experience. Later, the J. Paul Taylor Social Justice Community Award was given to Ruben Garcia, executive director of Annunciation House, who works to serve the people of El Paso and Juarez to find shelter, food and refuge.

Day two of the symposium kicked off from 9-11 a.m. Friday, April 12 in Gardner Hall, Room 230 with a panel discussion about community perspectives from the border.

A student poster presentation was then on display at Gardner from 11 a.m. – 12 p.m.

The event concluded with a summary and overall discussion at the Nason House Center for Latin American and Border Studies at 1070 University Ave.

[Read more...](#)

NMSU SUCCESS CLIM

College of Arts and Sciences tackles the public perception of climate change

New Mexico State University's Climate Change Education Seminar Series, continued in 2019 with a new talk, this time addressing how to best navigate polarization in the public debate about climate change.

Katharine Hayhoe, an atmospheric scientist at Texas Tech University, gave a presentation titled "Barriers to Public Acceptance of Climate Science, Impacts and Solutions" Feb. 6 in Domenici Hall.

The event was co-organized by Reed Burgette, a NMSU geology professor in the College of Arts and Sciences, and a committee including nine other faculty and community members.

[Read more...](#)



Katharine Hayhoe, the co-director of the Climate Science Center at Texas Tech University. (Courtesy photo)



Famed ecologist and Colorado State University professor Joel Berger. (Courtesy photo)

Extreme conservation and periglacial environments

The plight of animals living on the extreme edges of the world was the focus of the next installment in New Mexico State University's Climate Change Education Seminar Series.

Joel Berger, an ecologist at Colorado State University's Department of Fish, Wildlife and Conservation Biology, gave a presentation titled "Extreme Conservation on a Glacier-less Planet," at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 20 at the Rio Grande Theatre.

Berger discussed the challenges that animals living in the Arctic and other extreme regions of the planet faced due to their rapidly changing environment. The seminar then touched on the critical role that periglacial environments play in the survival of these animals.

[Read more...](#)

CLIMATE CHANGE SERIES

Increased drought patterns

The next installment of the New Mexico State University Climate Change Education Seminar Series brought the issue closer to home, addressing a critical problem in the southwest – water.

The presentation, “Drought, Water Security, and Ecosystem Disruption – the Southwest Climate Challenge,” took place March 6 at the Rio Grande Theatre in downtown Las Cruces.

Renowned climate change scientist Jonathan Overpeck, who currently serves as the dean of the University of Michigan’s School for Environment and Sustainability, led the talk.

[Read more...](#)



Jonathan Overpeck, a leading scientist in the field of environmental sustainability. (Courtesy photo)



A. Park Williams, a climatologist at the Columbia University Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory. (Courtesy photo)

Focus on wildfires

The final talk for the New Mexico State University Climate Change Education Seminar Series explored the recent pattern of wildfires blazing through the western half of the country.

Renowned fire expert and hydroclimatologist A. Park Williams presented “Climate Change, Wildfire and Megadrought in Western North America,” April 3 at the Rio Grande Theatre in downtown Las Cruces.

Williams, who works out of the Columbia University Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, explored climate change’s influence on the 21st century droughts in the Southwest and the intense fires that followed as a result.

[Read more...](#)

Events

The stars come out for the 2019 Las



Films at this year's Las Cruces International Film Festival explored issues such as social justice, immigration, space exploration and the human condition. The 2019 film festival presented by New Mexico State University and Visit Las Cruces ran Feb. 19-24 and offered the region the opportunity to screen more than 90 films – features, documentaries, short subjects, animation and foreign language films in all genres – in less than six days.

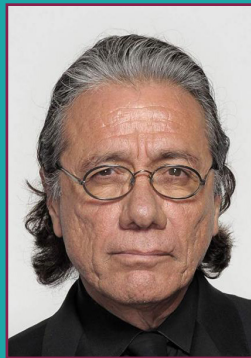
Each year, the festival honors well-known industry professionals, many of which participate in question and answer sessions after some of the films, as well as workshops and panel discussions throughout the week.

Special celebrity screenings this year included “The Ballad of Gregorio Cortez” starring Edward James Olmos, “River Runs Red” starring George Lopez, Taye Diggs and John Cusack and “Spare Parts” starring George Lopez.

“The Ballad of Gregorio Cortez” kicked off the festival Feb. 19 at the Rio Grande Theatre and featured the presentation of the Mark Medoff Humanitarian Award to Olmos following the film. Robert M. Young, age 94, an award-winning independent filmmaker, producer and director also received the LCIFF Auteur Award at the event.



Actor/comedian George Lopez
(Courtesy photo)



Actor/humanitarian Edward James Olmos (Courtesy photo)



Actress Zoey Perry. (Courtesy photo)



Actress Beverly D'Angelo.
(Courtesy photo)

Events

Cruces International Film Festival



George Lopez spoke with NMSU students during a Q&A inside the Corbett Center Student Union on Feb. 21. (NMSU photo by Josh Bachman)



George Lopez took a selfie with NMSU students following his Q&A inside the Corbett Center Student Union on Feb. 21. (NMSU photo by Josh Bachman)

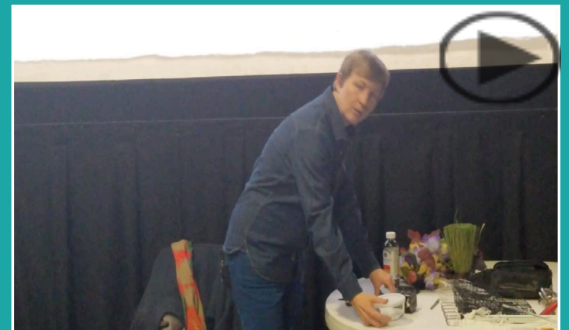
“Spare Parts,” starring George Lopez was screened Feb. 21 at Allen Theatres Cineport 10. The film is based on the true story of four Hispanic high school students who form a robotics club and go up against the country’s reigning robotics champion MIT. After the film, Lopez was honored with the LCIFF Outstanding Achievement in Entertainment Award.

Actresses Zoe Perry and Beverly D’Angelo both participated in a celebrity panel titled “Making it Work in Hollywood” Feb. 23 at the Rio Grande Theatre. Both were awarded the Outstanding Achievement in Comedy award during the festival. The panel also included writer and producer Don Foster and costume designer and producer Mary T. Quigley, both of “The Big Bang Theory.”

Special screenings also include “Chi Town” and the documentary “The Wall.”



A number of panels about filmmaking were also hosted during the festival. These included an acting panel hosted by Greg Thompson (top left), a workshop about producing foley sound by artist Lara Dale (top right), a screenwriting panel hosted by four successful writers (bottom left) and a panel from former NMSU students about working the film industry after graduation (bottom right).



NMSU hosts fourth annual Feminist Border Arts Film Festival

Bringing people together to see sides of life from different perspectives is the goal of New Mexico State University's Feminist Border Arts Film Festival. For the fourth year, NMSU gender and sexuality studies professors M. Catherine Jonet and Laura Anh Williams worked tirelessly to pull together a range of independent films from documentaries and animation to live action narratives and experimental films for the two-day festival on March 8–9.

"The first year we had 273 films submitted, the second year we had 3,000," said Williams. "Now it's the fourth year and it's become very difficult to select the films. The quality of the films is excellent."

Williams and Jonet are proud the festival kicked off this year on March 8, International Women's Day. The two-day festival began with a video art exhibition March 8, followed by the Filmmakers Showcase in the CMI Digital Media Theatre in Milton Hall.

The Filmmaker Showcase offered a first this year. Four filmmakers were on hand to discuss their films with the audience, thanks to travel funding to bring the filmmakers to Las Cruces. Among the award-winning filmmakers who attended the showcase were Trina Robinson, Nicole Antebi, Maria Altamirano and Darine Hotait.

"These films have a vision and use filmmaking in a transformative way," Jonet said. "These films can be guideposts for the world we live in. They help us to reflect and integrate what we know and experience with how we might make things better."

[Read more...](#)



The release poster for the fourth annual Feminist Border Arts Film Festival. (Courtesy photo)



A video presentation of the winners chosen during the 2019 Feminist Border Arts Film Festival. (Courtesy photo)

Anne Frank's stepsister, Holocaust survivor



Eva Schloss, childhood playmate of Anne Frank and Holocaust survivor spoke at 3:30 p.m. on Sunday, March 17 at the ASNMSU Center for the Arts. (Courtesy photo)

"The Diary of Anne Frank," written by a 13-year-old girl while in hiding during the Nazi occupation of the Netherlands, is considered one of the most powerful accounts of the human toll of the war. Her thoughts and observations have been published in more than 60 languages since 1947.

Although most of her family and friends are gone, Frank's stepsister and childhood playmate Eva Schloss traveled to Las Cruces from London to share her experiences, including accounts of the publishing of Frank's famed diary, at 3:30 p.m. Sunday, March 17, at the ASNMSU Center for the Arts.

Schloss, a 94-year-old Holocaust survivor, was a neighbor to Frank in Holland. The two girls became friends and playmates. Ultimately both girls and their families were deported to Auschwitz concentration camp. Later they would become stepsisters.

Since 1985, Schloss has devoted herself to Holocaust education and global peace. She has given more than 1,000 speaking engagements recounting her wartime experiences. She has had two books and a play written about her life. In 1999, Schloss signed the Anne Frank Peace Declaration along with United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan and the niece of Raul Wallenberg, a man who rescued thousands of Jews in Budapest.

"Eva joins many courageous individuals who work tirelessly to end the violence and bigotry that continue to plague our world," said Ross Marks, NMSU Creative Media professor and one of the organizers for the event. "Her story is sensational and difficult to imagine, yet her insightful message reminds us that life is precious and fragile, that the creative spirit is stronger than fear, that the power of good is immeasurable, and that love makes a difference."

Chabad Jewish Center of Las Cruces sponsored the event with the support of many local individuals and businesses.



An NMSU student speaks with Eva Schloss on March 17, shortly after Schloss addressed an audience of about 540 people. (Photo By Diana Alba Soular/Las Cruces Sun News)

Events

At The University Museum in Spring 2019

An Exhibition Opening at the University Museum

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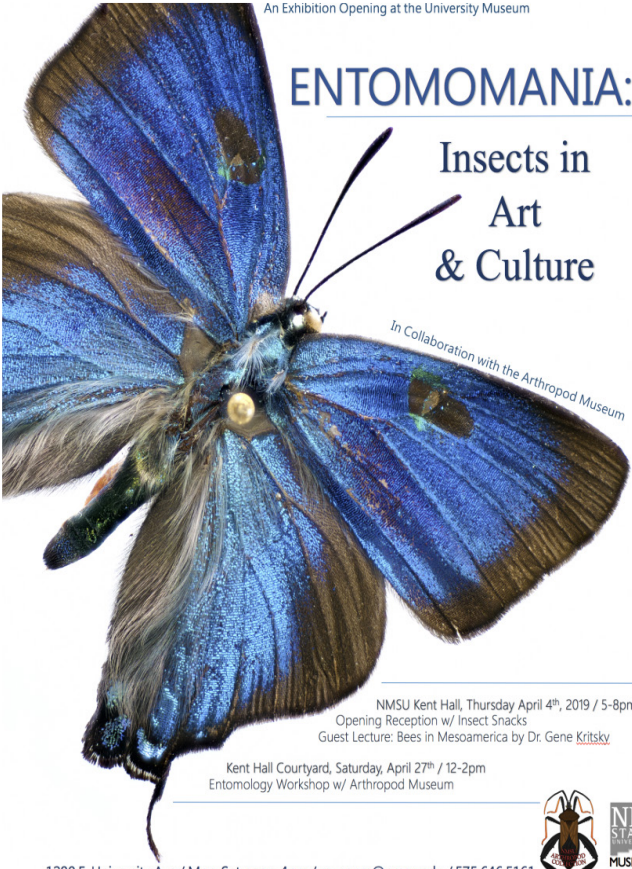

Insects in
Art
& Culture

In Collaboration with the Arthropod Museum

NMSU Kent Hall, Thursday April 4th, 2019 / 5-8pm
Opening Reception w/ Insect Snacks
Guest Lecture: Bees in Mesoamerica by Dr. Gene Kritsky

Kent Hall Courtyard, Saturday, April 27th / 12-2pm
Entomology Workshop w/ Arthropod Museum

1280 E. University Ave / Mon-Sat noon-4pm / museum@nmsu.edu / 575.646.5161


03/09/19 1PM-3PM FOSSIL DAY WORKSHOP

Exciting Paleontological Fun!

Join us at the University Museum at Kent Hall for an exciting day filled with fossil fun. Participants will get the opportunity to make their own fossils and interact with real fossils. This event is free to the public. Material provided on a first come, first served basis. We hope to see you there!



Be a Paleontologist
for a Day!

Fun for the Whole
Family!

Create your Own
"Fossils"!

Hands-on Activities
with Real Fossils!

Fun Fossil Matching
Activities!

UNIVERSITY MUSEUM AT KENT HALL

1280 E. University
575-646-5161

Museum Hours:

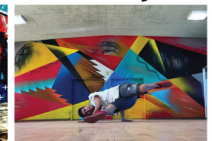
Monday-Saturday:
12:00pm-4:00pm

PICTOCRAFF

The Art of WarPrayer

Featured Arrowsoul Artists

Rezmo • Doug Miles • Randy B



May 11, 2019

New Mexico State University

Kent Hall Gallery

Las Cruces, New Mexico

Live Arrowsoul Art Demo

IndigenousFreeWays of Knowing

Panel Discussion & Live Music

In conjunction with

CARRICADE

BodyPhix

8th ANNUAL
LIVE ART
ARROWSOUL ART SHOW

5pm
NM
STATE

E University Ave at Solano Intersection

NMSU's Pride Season

By Melissa Rutter

New Mexico State University's LGBT+ Programs began its Pride Season on Wednesday, Jan. 30. Four events were held throughout the next few months starting with a lecture from Susan Stryker, an associate professor of Gender and Women's Studies at the University of Arizona.

In Stryker's lecture, she discussed her continued scholarship on transgender identity. Stryker is one of the founding voices in the discipline of Transgender Studies.

LGBT+ Program's annual drag show was held March 18 in the Corbett Ballroom. The spring break party themed show was hosted by national pageant queen Gabriella Stratton Galore, and featured national stars Eva Alicia Jane, Sabrina Caprice Heartt and local and student performers with music by local talent DJ Beach Blast.

Kai Davis, a writer and performer from Philadelphia, performed her poetry work at 7 p.m. April 15 in Corbett Center's west ballroom. Davis has performed on CNN, BET, PBS and NPR among others.

The last Pride Season event featured a screening of "Susanne Bartsch: On Top," held on April 22 in the Creative Media Institute in Milton Hall. The documentary covers one of the most influential figures in the New York club scene who helped to usher in drag and high fashion, and who helped to bring the national spotlight to the fight against AIDS.

The various events were co-sponsored by the Gender and Sexuality Studies department, the English Department, the Creative Media Institute, and Aggie Health and Wellness. All events were also done in conjunction with ASNMSU were free and open to the public.



Pride Season 2019


Dr. Susan Stryker
Jan 30 @ 7pm
Corbett Auditorium


Pride Season Drag Show
Mar 18 @ 7pm
Corbett Ballrooms


Kai Davis Intersectional Poetry
April 15 @ 7pm. Corbett


Susanne Bartsch: On Top
Movie Screening
April 22 @ 7pm. CMI Theatre

 
Aggie Health and Wellness
Creative Media Institute
Gender and Sexuality Studies
English Department

All Events are Free
and open to everyone

The poster for the Pride Season 2019 event, which kicked off at NMSU on January 30 and ran through April 22.

ROTC conducts Presidential Pass in Review

NMSU's Army and Air Force ROTC Cadets participated in the 117th Presidential Pass in Review on April 19. Held in front of Hadley Hall, the Pass in Review is a formal military ceremony that displays the strength and unity of a detachment as well as promoting teamwork and pride within an organization.

(NMSU photos by Elijah Banegas)



NMSU President John Floros (middle) participates in this year's pass in review.



In Memorium

LEE K. ABBOTT



Former English professor at NMSU, Lee K. Abbott. (Courtesy photo: Las Cruces Sun News)

Abbott attended Las Cruces High School and graduated from NMSU with a bachelor's degree in 1970 and a master's degree in English in 1973. He met his wife at NMSU and went on to receive a master's of fine arts from the University of Arkansas. In 1989, he became a professor of English at The Ohio State University, where he remained until he retired in 2012.

In 2015, at the urging of NMSU English department faculty, Abbott returned to teach at NMSU as a distinguished visiting professor.

[Read more...](#)

Lee K. Abbott's impact on students was indelible. After a lifetime writing award-winning short stories and teaching creative writing at universities across the country, Abbott's life ended in Las Cruces, where he grew up. Abbott lost his battle with leukemia on April 29. He was 71.

Abbott is remembered for the energy and inspiration he gave his students. New Mexico State University creative writers were among the last to benefit from his teaching.

"He was quirky – a tall drink of water, loved his bourbon, loved a cigarette," said NMSU Master of Fine Arts graduate Barry Pearce when describing Abbott. "Words like gallant and gentleman come to mind. He was old school in some ways, but also utterly progressive, passionate about civil rights, women's rights, income inequality."



Lee K. Abbott in 1982, shortly after winning the Cleveland Arts Prize for Literature. (Photo Courtesy: ClevelandArtsPrize.Org)



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