

MAY 2023



OFFICE OF THE
VICE PRESIDENT
FOR RESEARCH

FROM THE DESK OF THE Vice President for Research

Lobos,

Congratulations on successfully completing another academic year. As students, staff, and faculty prepare for spring commencement, it's imperative that we remember that to commence, means "to begin" and this certainly prompts a new chapter in each graduate's journey of change, discovery, innovation, and so much more.

Last month, a group of Lobos attended a UNM Alumni Association reception in Washington, D.C. It was a perfect opportunity to introduce our congressional delegation to a UNM tradition. Four faculty members - from diverse disciplines - presented their research and scholarship during a Lightning Lounge talk that kicked off the reception.

While I was there, I met many UNM alum and visited a few congressional offices while admiring the beautiful cherry blossoms. It was my first time to do "Hill visits" in person and I learned a great deal about what our representatives are doing to shape legislation that will improve the lives of New Mexicans. I look forward to future D.C. visits and to the potential for more mobile lightning lounge events to share the UNM research community's impact and innovation.



Ellen Fisher, Ph.D.
Vice President for Research
Professor of Chemistry





Research Celebrations

Globally-Engaged Research Awards

We're excited to announce the faculty and student winners of this year's Globally-Engaged Research Awards.

Faculty Award

Alok Bohara | Professor of Economics
Recognized for his leadership of the Nepal Study Center

Graduate Awards

Beau Murphy | Ph.D. candidate | Anthropology
Recognized for his archaeological fieldwork on political economy in Chile

Esther Elia | MFA student | Fine Arts
Recognized for her research on Assyrian cultural heritage in the production of prayer bowls

Deborah Rifembary Memorial Undergraduate Award

Tara Falce | International Studies
Recognized for her research on the human and political crises in Syria

This is the second annual faculty award, and the first year we're honoring the international work of undergraduate and graduate students.

Undergraduate Research Opportunity Conference



Last month, we celebrated the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Conference. Students representing 41 different departments from across campus participated in poster sessions, presentations, and workshops followed by an award reception. A total of 185 presentations were given by 160 students in one day.

UNM’s Undergraduate Research, Arts & Design Network (URAD) hosts the annual event to give undergraduates the opportunity to spotlight their research, explain their ideas, and display what they have to offer in their respective fields and majors. Congratulations to all the winners, participants, and volunteers on a successful conference!



UNM Tech Days 2023

The OVPR in partnership with the OIA, CULLS, and IT presented “Qualtrics Day” at UNM Tech Days 2023.

We offered four workshops including Qualtrics 101, Qualtrics in the Classroom, Best Practices Around Survey Design, and Ethics of Survey Design. More than 130 individuals registered for all four workshops. OVPR will be reaching out to everyone who was placed on a waitlist and could not attend one of their desired courses as we consider future offerings of these popular courses. Overall, nearly 400 people attended Tech Days 2023!

Qualtrics is available to UNM faculty, staff, and students, all you need is your UNM username and password to login.

Research Spotlight

Land Grant Studies Program

The UNM Land Grant Studies Program (LGSP) was established in 2008 with the intention of providing academic research and scholarship related to Land Grant-Merced communities. Since its inception, the LGSP has focused on providing services to community land grants throughout New Mexico. This includes providing assistance with historical and archival research, GIS mapping, as well as genealogical and census data research. The LGSP has also provided student employment and internship opportunities for more than 20 graduate students and nearly 30 undergraduate students.

Last month, LGSP Research Historian Jacobo Baca and LGSP Community Outreach Specialist Anissa Baca participated in the New Mexico Association for Bilingual Education 2023 Annual Conference. They helped facilitate a curriculum development workshop focusing on land grants and acequias, which is part of an ongoing partnership with New Mexico Highlands University related to the Acequia and Land Grant Education research and public service project. The purpose of

the project is to develop curriculum related to acequias and land grants that can be utilized in public schools (K-12), afterschool programs, and by community partners. The project will impact how New Mexico public school students learn, and better understand these historic communities and institutions which are part of the cultural fabric of the state.

Most recently, LGSP staff collaborated with faculty at the UNM School of Law, UNM School of Architecture and Planning, as well as several community attorneys for a two-weekend seminar course on Land Grants-Mercedes and Acequias. Associate Professor and LGSP Director Manuel Garcia y Griego, Research Historian Jacobo Baca, and LGSP Program Manager Arturo Archuleta all served as co-instructors for the course along with other UNM faculty. The course was designed to provide the legal history and overview of contemporary issues faced by land grants-mercedes and acequias.

The course was attended by 19 law students; it also provided future practicing attorneys, judges, and policy makers with a better understanding of land grants and acequias.



Research News

Faculty-Mentored Research Award

Nominations are open for the 2023 Faculty-Mentored Research Award.

The award is given annually to an outstanding undergraduate researcher and their faculty research mentor based upon the demonstration of a strong research partnership.

Faculty award recipients will receive a \$2,500 prize to be awarded as an honorarium or a contribution to their research index. Student award recipients will receive a \$1,500 cash prize.

Nominations for the 2023 award must be submitted via [InfoReady](#) by May 31.

R&D Week Early Event Registration

Planning for this year's 2023 Research and Discovery week, Nov 6-12, is underway. [Register your event\(s\)](#) early to request funding and to secure a place on the official calendar.

R&D Week is a campus-wide event focused on celebrating the excellence and diversity of UNM's research enterprise, while promoting resources and opportunities available to UNM researchers.

FaST Applications

The FaST [application deadline](#) for Spring 2024 teaching assistance is May 26.

The FaST program provides tenure-track and tenured faculty with a reduced teaching load to enhance their capacity to bring their research, scholarship, and creative activities to the next level.

Examples of "leveling-up" one's research include, but are not limited to:

- Making progress on or finishing a book
- Directed research development activities such as collaboration building, proposal development, or extended community engagement
- Data collection and/or analysis
- Manuscript preparation
- Preparing for an exhibition, performance, or concert

UNM Main Campus tenure-track and tenured faculty in all disciplines are eligible to apply for this program. Applicants must discuss their proposal with their Department Chair *before* submitting their application.

STEM Education

Last month, the [National Science Foundation](#) awarded a \$1.49 million grant to UNM. The grant will support the new “Teachers Organizing Diverse Opportunities Across a STEM Ecosystem” (TODOS) project.

For the next five years, an interdisciplinary group of faculty researchers will recruit and develop K-12 science teachers as leaders.

ADVANCE ‘Pandemic and Beyond’ Guide

ADVANCE at UNM has released a [new guide](#) for faculty at UNM that contains current information on policies related to COVID that affect faculty, including tenure clock extensions and milestone review policies.

The guide also has pandemic-era opportunities for UNM faculty including possibilities for teaching releases and ways to enhance undergraduate research. You can also read about research on COVID being done at UNM.

Did you know?

Did you know the UNM Duck Pond was originally called “Central Park” and was the source of some controversy after its completed construction in 1977. Read more about it, [here](#).