

FROM THE DESK OF THE
Vice President for Research

March 2024

Lobos,

2024 is shaping up to be a busy one (can you believe Spring Break is almost here?!) and I know our Lobo researchers are up for the challenge of exploring new directions in creativity, innovation, and discovery.

March is Women's History Month, and we have some incredible women conducting inspiring research across all our campuses at The University of New Mexico. While we commemorate and encourage the study, observance, and celebration of the vital role of women in American history, it's essential we also applaud the women who are making significant contributions for our future.

This month, we will also focus on where we are and where we're going as an R1 University during my 2024 State of Research. I have set our goals high, and we continue to surpass them each year. During the event, we will celebrate some of those research wins, along with the researchers making it all happen.



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

Nancy López is a professor of sociology at the UNM. López directs and co-founded the Institute for the Study of "Race" & Social Justice. Her scholarship, teaching and service is guided by the insights of intersectionality – the importance of examining race, gender, class, ethnicity together – for interrogating inequalities across a variety of social outcomes, including education, health, employment, housing, and developing contextualized solutions that advance social justice. Her book, *Hopeful Girls, Troubled Boys: Race and Gender Disparity in Urban Education* focuses on the race-gender experiences of Dominicans, West Indians, and Haitians to explain why girls are succeeding at higher rates than boys.

Sherri Burr is the Dickason chair and a regents professor at the UNM School of Law. In 1994 she received tenure and promotion to full professor, becoming the first African American female to do so in New Mexico. In 2015, she was awarded a Monticello Fellowship to conduct research on the Free Blacks of Virginia, the hundreds of thousands of African Americans who were free before the Civil War. Burr's ancestors were among this group. Her, *Complicated Lives: Free Blacks in Virginia*, was published in 2019 and nominated for the Pulitzer Prize in History.

Suzanne Oakdale is a UNM professor of Anthropology and deputy editor of the *Journal of Anthropological Research*. Last month, her book *Amazonian Cosmopolitans: Navigating a Shamanic Cosmos, Shifting Indigenous Identities, and Other Modern Projects* was published by the University of Nebraska Press. She is currently expanding her research by designing a project centered on celiac disease and the methods of coping with chronic conditions. Using ethnographic research methods, she will focus on the role those personal narratives, one's own and those of others, can play in the management of this condition. Oakdale also participated in the first cohort of the UNM Fostering Research Expansion in the Social Sciences and Humanities program.

March Safety Spotlight

OVPR and UNM Environmental Health & Science (EHS) have partnered to help researchers obtain specialized personal protective equipment (PPE) required for specific types of activities.

Within the last year, EHS has purchased special-request PPE such as:

- High-quality eye protection (e.g., custom laser eyewear)
- Cut-proof gloves
- Flame-resistant lab coats

EHS can help you determine what level of protection may be needed for those times when you are conducting different types of research. If you or your lab/studio needs specialized PPE for specific types of research activities, EHS has set up a "Request for Supplies" option on its website under the Research Safety tab. Lobos, you can also send a request to chemsafety-L@list.unm.edu to discuss your needs. Safe research is excellent research.

Research Events

2024 State of Research

UNM Vice President for Research Ellen Fisher will host the 3rd annual State of Research presentation in a little less than two weeks.

The presentation will be held Monday, March 18 at 4 p.m., and include a Q&A session. A reception will follow the hour-long presentation. Students, staff, faculty, alumni, postdocs, and community members are encouraged to attend.

Annual Research Lecture

This year's ARL honoree, Distinguished Professor Felisa Smith will present her lecture, *Mammalian Paleocology: Using the Past to Study the Present*, this month. She will provide examples of how past earth history can be employed to study the present. This idea that history sets the context for the present is central to her research program. As human societies struggle with difficult environmental issues such as climate change and biodiversity loss, figuring out how animals coped with similar challenges in the past can provide valuable insights into their adaptive limits and the resilience of communities and ecosystems to perturbations.

Felisa Smith is a distinguished professor in the UNM Department of Biology, and her research successes reach far beyond our university community. She is a mammalogist, focusing her research interests on paleoecological and evolutionary research—specifically the effects of current global and past climatic change and biodiversity loss on mammals.

Responsible Conduct of Research Training Symposia

As part of our commitment to fostering a culture of ethical research practices, we are offering several full-day symposia dedicated to the responsible conduct of research. Each of these symposia provides a platform for researchers, students, and faculty members to engage in thought-provoking discussions and gain valuable insights into various aspects of responsible research.

Each event will be held the second Monday of the month beginning Monday, March 11 in Ortega Hall 335.

We encourage all faculty, post-docs, and students to attend one event to take care of all required NSF and NIH training topics.

International conference comes to Albuquerque

The University of New Mexico's Successful Aging Grand Challenges Team is involved with the design of the International Conference on Frailty and Sarcopenia Research (ICFSR) that's taking place in Albuquerque this month.

The conference will be held March 20-22 at Hotel Albuquerque Old Town.

CERL Awardee

We are excited and pleased to announce the recipient of the 9th annual Community-Engaged Research Lecture (CERL) award, Kimberly Gauderman.

Gauderman, an associate professor of Latin American History, has been a Lobo since 1988. Gauderman is being recognized for her relentless dedication to social justice and human rights, particularly on behalf of individuals who have suffered domestic and sexual violence, repression due to sexual orientation or gender identity, and gang violence.

THE CERL award recognizes exceptional scholarly work that embodies UNM's commitment to community engagement and that profoundly and systematically affects the relationship between the university and the larger community in a positive and meaningful way.

We look forward to Gauderman's lecture sometime in the Fall.

Decoding Science Communication

Postdocs, the UNM Directed Energy Center and New Mexico EPSCoR are sponsoring a workshop aiming to equip you with the essential skills and knowledge to become a confident and compelling science communicator.

The workshop will be held at the UNM Center for High Technology Materials May 16–17.

Ideal applicants are postdocs who have received their PhD within 5 years of the workshop and are currently affiliated with a New Mexico academic institution or national laboratory.

Complete the online application form by March 15. Space is limited to 30 participants.



Did you know?

UNM's Maxwell Museum of Anthropology is named after Dorothy Maxwell who graduated from UNM in 1941 with a bachelor's degree in Anthropology.

Learn more about her research, scholarship, and contributions to UNM [here](#).