Welcome to the 2025 UNM Department of English Language and Literature Convocation



THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO.

Welcome to the 2025 UNM Department of English Language and Literature Convocation

<u>UNM Indigenous People's Land and</u> <u>Territory Acknowledgement</u>

Founded in 1889, the University of New Mexico sits on the traditional homelands of the Pueblo of Sandia.
The original peoples of New Mexico - Pueblo, Navajo, and Apache - since time immemorial, have deep connections to the land and have made significant contributions to the broader community statewide.
We honor the land itself and those who remain stewards of this land throughout the generations and also acknowledge our committed relationship to Indigenous peoples. We gratefully recognize our history.

Developed by the Special Assistant for American Indian Affairs to the UNM President in consultation with the Native American Faculty Council. Approved and adopted by President Garnett S. Stokes, February 2020

Art by Jennifer Ober

Convocation Speaker



Mr. Daniel Losh, M.A. English, 1977

Graduate Awards and Scholarships

2024 Bilinski Foundation Fellowship Awards

Congratulations to Haley Steffens



An (Un)Assimilated Nation: Immigration & Assimilation, Autobiographies & Fictions of the Nineteenth Century

Haley Steffens is a Ph.D. Candidate in American Literary Studies in the Department of English Language & Literature at UNM. Her field of study addresses immigration and assimilation patterns in North American literature from the nineteenth century into the early twentieth century. Her dissertation, An (Un)Assimilated Nation, interrogates varied assimilation experiences in the United States during the nineteenth century, as reflected in literature, and perpetuated culture and ratified by law. Haley's project approaches the assimilation processes and practices of the period through the experiences of several disparate authors categorized under three groupings—what she calls willing assimilation, resisted assimilation, and non-participatory assimilation.

Congratulations to Jessie Bonafede



Violence Condemned, Violence Condoned: An Analysis of Performative Chivalric Violence in the English Alliterative Romances Jessie is a PhD candidate in English with a concentration in Medieval Studies at UNM. Her dissertation focuses on medieval literary depictions of chivalric violence and the knight's masculine body in the English alliterative Arthurian romances of the Hundred Years War. She offers a new theoretical and methodological praxis for analyzing discourses of chivalric violence and gender which stem from her research into literary studies, genre studies, art and military history, anthropology, and sociology. Jessie's goal is to expand the critical scope of literary investigation to uncover where less recognized and more socially normalized arenas of violence occur, by whom, and why.

2024-2025 Center for Regional Studies Fellowship Awards

Congratulations to Robin Babb



Robin Babb is a second-year student in the Creative Writing MFA program at UNM. She is currently the associate editor at edible New Mexico, and she has previously worked as an editor at the (now defunct) alt-weekly paper The Weekly Alibi and at El Palacio: Art, History & Culture of New Mexico. Her work has been published in Phoebe Journal, New Mexico Magazine, and Southwest Contemporary, and is forthcoming in the Kenyon Review. She was recently awarded a 2024 New Mexico Writers Annual Grant. Robin's writing revolves around literature and pop culture, as well as the agriculture and ecology of the desert Southwest. Currently she is researching the Mexican gray wolf recovery project, much of which is taking place in Southern New Mexico. She lives in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Congratulations to Brandy Reeves



Brandy Reeves, a PhD Candidate in American Literary Studies, has received the Center for Regional Studies (CRS) Graduate Student Fellowships and the Glenda Lewis Critical Race Award to help facilitate her dissertation research. The CRS fellowships are awarded to graduate students for project-based research that support degree completion and the student's graduation timetable. This is the second year Brandy has received this award. The Glenda Lewis Critical Race Award supports graduate students whose research is related to critical race scholarship. Brandy specializes in twentieth and twenty-first century American literature, multiethnic American literature, and texts that examine motherhood from the perspective of women of color. Her dissertation will examine the structural and institutional racialization of motherhood and its impact on women of color in the regional Southwest and beyond.

2025 Larry Morris Memorial Scholarship

Congratulations to John Hardberger



From the Hillside website 2025 Larry Morris Scholarship Recipients — The Hillside Source

John Hardberger is a second-year MFA candidate in fiction in UNM's Department of English. He currently serves as Fiction Editor at *Blue Mesa Review*, UNM's graduate literary magazine. Hardberger's runnerup scholarship prize will help support his current creative writing project, a literary science fiction novel tentatively titled *Familiar*. The novel, set at the turn of the 20th century in an alternate version of America, straddles other genres including fantasy, historical fiction, mystery, and horror, and is thematically focused on the intersection of faith and identity. The story centers around an excommunicated nun named Joanna formerly from a secretive, magic-wielding religious order who is drawn into a crime investigation. With this novel, Hardberger wants readers to ask what is lost in translation when spirituality is institutionalized, and how our institutions, spiritual and otherwise, might better support us in life. Susan Deese-Roberts Outstanding Teaching Assistant of the Year 2025

Congratulations to Gwyneth Henke



Departmental Awards

Howard Dean Everett Scholarship Charles Horace

Hillerman-McGarrity Scholarship in Creative Writing Emma Gannon Candra Lowry

Phyllis Flanders Dorset Scholarship in English Literature Wendi Lee

Graduate Student Award in Rhetoric and Writing Gabriel Garcia Rudolfo Anaya Fellowship Julianne Peterman

Mary M. McDonald Scholarship Fund in English Darian Wharton

Dr. E.A. Mares Award for Chicano Literature Josh Sanchez

Vicente Ximenes Scholarship Madeline Mendoza

Buchanan Arms Award in English Navid Etedali Literature and Creative Writing Teaching Awards

Patricia Smith Creative Writing Teaching Award Julianne Peterman

Paul Davis and Cheryl Fresch Literature TA Award Averie Basch

Core Writing Awards

Outstanding Core Writing Instructor Ashley Bernardo

Outstanding New Writing Instructor Darian Wharton

> Outstanding Peer Mentor Julianne Peterman

> > Best 1110 Sequence Doaa Omran

> > Best 2120 Sequence Bianca Lucero

Undergraduate Awards, Scholarships, Publications and Honors

Departmental Awards

Bank of America Undergraduate Student Award Kadra Guillermo

Bank of America Returning Student Award Anna Yarrow

Katherine G. Simons Scholarship in English Sarah Massey Benson Welles

Joseph B. Zavadil Memorial Scholarship Nolan Rigg Elsie and James Demas Scholarship Renee Johnson

NM Folklore Scholar in English Anthony Lucero

Irene B. Kimball Endowed Scholarship Ruth-Ann Davis

The Dale and Ivan Melada Endowed Scholarship Maria Fernandez Leslie Duran Jacob Garcia Miriam Reichsfeld Howard Dean Everett Scholarship Monika Toledo

Virginia R. Fultz Scholarship Ariah Romero

Linda and Arthur John Brender Endowed Scholarship Eviana Lopez

Hillerman-McGarrity Scholarship in Creative Writing Sophia Walker AJ Wood

> Katherine M. Sims Memorial Scholarship Ariel Menendez

9th Annual McKinnon Poetry Contest Winners

In memory of and with gratitude to Karen McKinnon



Congratulations to Kadra Guillermo, Michelle Corral and Hayley Hunt







Lena M. Todd Awards Fiction, Poetry and Nonfiction

Fiction

- First Place: Matthew Lineberry
- Second Place: Alex Wells

Poetry

- First Place: Alyssa Ramos
- Second Place: Isabella Clarke

Nonfiction

- First Place: Cara Dwyer
- Second Place: Renata Gonzales

2025 Hulsman Undergraduate Library Research Awards

Congratulations to Maria Clara Pedroza Santos



Third Place in the Emerging Researcher Category for:

Inside the Margins: Favelas Beyond the Tourist Lens

Maria is a Sophomore majoring in Economics. She wrote the paper in an ENGL 2120 class

Maria was recommended by English TA and MFA student, Bianca Lucero

2025 El Puente Undergraduate Research Fellow
Congratulations to Miriam Reichsfeld



Majors: English and Studio Arts

Research Interests: Identifying strategies to facilitate immigrant students' access to financial aid and support their pursuit of higher education opportunities

Student Publications

Conceptions Southwest

2025

Rudy Carrillo

Sofia M. Eagle

Addison Fulton

Renata Sophia Amaris Gonzales

"The Fabled Astronauts are Remembered at El Supermercado"

"Dog Head Woman"

"Foreign Affairs"

"Birth of Pearl"

| Conceptions Southwest | | 2025 |
|-----------------------|---|------|
| Nic Hinson | "The Surgery" "Stopgapping" "Corpus" | |
| Savina Maria Romero | "El amor todo lo puede" "A Solaz" | |
| Kimberly Scott | "On the Ground and in the Air and in Between" | |

Conceptions Southwest

2025

Drew Sowers

Anna Yarrow

"Timelapse" "Tide in a Timelapse" "A Chair in a Yard"

"We Felt Butterfly" "Circle of Life"

Conceptions Southwest

2025

English Department Students as Editorial Staff

Kelsa Mendoza, Editor-in Chief Isabella Young, Digital Editor

Scribendi 2025

Kion Nordberg

"I Don't Know How"

Scribendi 2025

English Department Students as Editorial Staff

Kadra Guillermo, Managing Editor GoGo Salguero, Office Manager

Nic Hinson Rymer Hewitt

Limina

2025

English Department Award goes to

Zoe Sloan Callan "Einn Eftir í Klúbbnum"

Savannah Phelps

"The Gender of Christ in Late Antique and Byzantine Representation"

"The Food Game"

MJ Robertson Yi Mason Parrish

"The Hypocrisy of Southern Christianity in the 1800s and the Nature of Faith"

Limina

2025

English Department Students as Editorial Staff

Isabella Young, Copy Chief Madison Hogans, Staff Editor Orion Lee, Staff Editor Jazzlyn Martinez, Staff Editor

Undergraduate Departmental Honors

Miranda Benson, "Thor Reimagined: Reclaiming a Lost Voice" magna cum laude Advisor: Ana June

Michael Chavez,

"Effects and Implications of Technological Advancements and Artificial Intelligence in the Field of Second Language Acquisition" magna cum laude Advisor: C. Tyler Johnson

Renee Johnson, "Irregular Unions in Shakespeare's *The Merchant of Venice*" summa cum laude Advisor: Carmen Nocentelli Leah Livingston, "Partition" summa cum laude Advisor: Greg Martin

Cynthia O'Rourke, "One Burque Punk" magna cum laude Advisor: Daniel Mueller

Savian Romero, "Limpia" magna cum laude Advisor: Greg Martin Jennifer Torres, "Analyzing Media Framing of Transgender Healthcare Access: A Critical Discourse Analysis" cum laude Advisor: Beth Davila

Morgan Tracy, "Toy Box House" magna cum laude Advisor: Lisa D. Chavez

AJ Wood, "Maw" magna cum laude Advisor: Andrew Bourelle



Department of English Language and Literature Lecture Series and Events The Institute for Medieval Studies presents: The 39th Annual Helen Damico Memorial Lecture THE UNIVERSITY of NEW MEXICO College of Arts & Sciences, Institute for Medieval Studies

The 39th Annual Helen Damico Memorial Lecture Series

The Interconnected Middle Ages



Mappa Mundi; Beatus of Liebana, Commentary on the Apocalypse, fol. 13v-14r 13th-14th centuries; Bibliothèque Nationale; Paris, France.

March 31 – April 3, 2025

Lectures will be presented in person in Woodward Hall 101 at 5:30 pm

This event is free and open to the public! For a full schedule, list of speakers, and more information, visit <u>http://ims.unm.edu</u>

With generous support from the College of Arts and Sciences, the College of Fine Arts, the Honors College, the Department of English, the Department of History, and a Centennial Grant from the Medieval Academy of America



The Creative Writing Program hosts two reading series each semester, the Russo Reading Series and Works in Progress.



Russo Reading Series

From top left: Sam Tetangco Zoë Bossiere Debra Jackson Taffa (rescheduled) Jenn Shapland







English Department Social Gathering "Parish Warming"

Friday, May 2, 2025









The 3rd Annual Mary Power Lecture in Irish Studies

Irish Royalty: Grace Kelly, the Kennedys, and Irish-American Assimilation

Professor Mary M. Burke of the University of Connecticut delivered a lecture that demonstrates that the WASP persona that movie studio executives created for film star Grace Kelly was meant to diminish the usual associations of her Irish Famine-era Catholic roots. However, her globally broadcast 1956 royal wedding in Monaco transformed her into the "Irish Princess." Most significantly, her rise to the highest social echelon paved the way for "America's royals," the Kennedys, as well as broader Irish-American assimilation.



In memoriam: Marian Hessink



Congratulations to all our

Graduates!