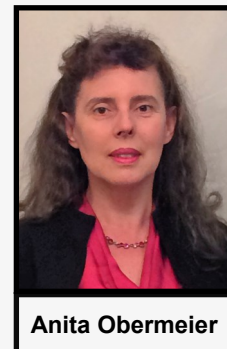




Letter from the Chair

Welcome to the inaugural UNM Department of English Newsletter. We hope to update our alumni on our programs, faculty, students, and achievements. We have a thriving undergraduate program with 400+ majors as well as a graduate program that offers an MFA, three MA and three PhD concentrations in Literature, Medieval Studies, and Rhetoric and Writing. Aside from our existing Rudolfo Anaya Lecture Series, we are launching a D.H. Lawrence Lecture Series. If you are interested in a guided outing to the D.H. Lawrence Ranch, please let us know. We also created [a webpage](#) to showcase alumni news and achievements.



Anita Obermeier

Upcoming Events

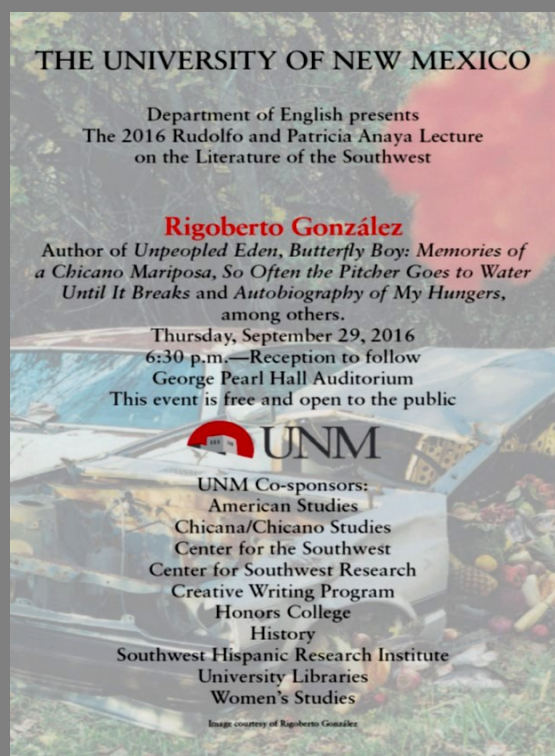
Please join us!

The 2016 Rudolfo and Patricia Anaya Lecture on the Literature of the Southwest

September 29, 6:30 PM, George Pearl Auditorium

Featuring Author Rigoberto González

Click [here](#) for more information.



Alumni News

Erika L. Sanchez, MFA, recently won the esteemed Ruth Lilly & Dorothy Sargent Rosenberg Poetry Fellowship, which was established in 1989 to encourage writing and further study of poetry.

Natalie Scenters-Zapico, MFA, recently had her poem "Endnotes on Ciudad Juarez," chosen for the prestigious collection, *Best American Poetry*, 2015. Her book, *The Verging Cities*, was published in April 2015, part of the *Mountain West Poetry Series*. It has also been named one of the Notable Debut Collections by *Poets and Writers* magazine.

Leigh Johnson, PhD in American Literature, published "Unsexing *I am Joaquin* through Chicana Feminist Revisions" in *A Sense of Regard: Essays on Poetry and Race* (U of Georgia P, 2015).

Danizete Martinez, PhD in American Literature, was elected to a 3-year term on the Committee on Community Colleges by the MLA executive council. Additionally, she was appointed as the Division Chair of Communication, History, English and Social Sciences (*CHESS*).

Find out more about alumni accomplishments on our new [Alumni Spotlight Page](#). We'd love to share your news and accomplishments in our next newsletter. Send a brief description and any relevant photos to english@unm.edu

Current Faculty News

Jesse Aleman published a chapter "Recovered and Recovery Texts of the Nineteenth Century" in *Latino/a Literature in the Classroom: Twenty-First-Century Approaches to Teaching*.

Anita Obermeier published "Merlin's Conception by Devil in William Rowley's Play *The Birth of Merlin*" in *Arthuriana*. She also published a book review of Joerg O. Fichte's *From Camelot to Obamalot: Essays on Medieval and Modern Arthurian Literature* (Trier: Wissenschaftlicher Verlag Trier, 2010) in the *Journal for English and Germanic Philology*.

Sharon Oard Warner was a finalist for the 2015 New Mexico-Arizona book awards for *Sophie's House of Cards*. Read an interview she did with the Rumpus about her new publication at therumpus.net.

Julianne Newmark published *The Pluralist Imagination from East to West in American Literature* with the U of Nebraska Press. She also published "Learning Beyond the Classroom and Textbook: Workplace Enculturation via Technical Communication Client Projects and Internships" in *IEEE Transactions on Professional Communication* as well as "Claims to Political Place through the National Council of American Indians: Locating Gertrude and Raymond Bonnin in the Nation's Capital" in *Modern Language Studies*.



Emeriti Faculty News *Milestones*

Patrick Gallacher, Professor Emeritus of Medieval Language and Literature died at age 80 in February 2015. He received his PhD in Medieval English Literature and Comparative Linguistics from the U of Illinois-Urbana in 1964, and joined the UNM faculty in 1972. Partly poet, partly philosopher, he primarily loved teaching. While his engagement with ideas and poetry went beyond the classroom, he found introducing undergraduates to critical ideas and medieval poetry exhilarating. As a result, in 2006 The Patrick J. Gallacher Scholarly Achievement Fund was established by UNM's Department of English in his honor. Read more about him [here](#); and [click here](#) to learn more about and contribute to the Patrick J. Gallacher Fund for Scholarly Achievement in English Medieval Literature or Studies.



Emeriti News (continued)

Jim Thorson, Professor Emeritus, is directing doctoral dissertations at two universities in the Republic of Georgia. He is working with dissertation writers at Akaki Tserateli University in Kutaisi as well as Tbilisi State University.

Helen Damico, Professor Emerita, was inducted as Fellow into the Medieval Academy of America in March 2015. That spring, she published *Beowulf and the Grendel-kin: Politics and Poetry in Eleventh-Century England* (West Virginia UP) which was noted by scholar Kevin Kiernan as a “revolutionary thesis...demand[ing] the attention of all serious students of *Beowulf*.”



Helen Damico (far right) with fellow 2015 Medieval Academy of America inductees. Photo credit: Lisa Fagin Davis

Rudolfo Anaya's novel *Bless Me, Ultima*, which was made into a full-length motion picture in 2013, is now being produced as an opera by Opera Southwest with the National Hispanic Cultural Center and is scheduled for the 2017-2018 season. In 2014, Rudolfo was inducted into the Albuquerque Wall of Fame, which honors those who have positively contributed to the Albuquerque community.

Gary Scharnhorst published the article, “Mark Twain Reports the Horner Disaster” in *American Literary Realism* (Spring 2015). In 2014 he published two books, *Julian Hawthorne: The Life of a Prodigal Son* (U of Illinois) and *Mark Twain on Potholes and Politics: Letters to the Editor* (U of Missouri Press).



New Faculty



Bernadine Hernandez, Assistant Professor, holds a PhD in Literature with a concentration in Cultural Studies and Literatures in English from the University of California, San Diego. Her scholarship and teaching focus on the intersection of American literary production, Chicana feminism, and critical gender and sexuality studies.

Sarah Townsend, Assistant Professor, received her PhD in English from the University of California, Berkeley in 2011. She is a scholar of modern and contemporary Irish literature with additional interests in British modernism and contemporary Anglophone literature.



Yulia Ryzhik, Visiting Assistant Professor, holds a PhD in English from Harvard University. Her research interests extend to poetry of all periods, satire and humor, Shakespeare, Italian Renaissance art and literature, the classical tradition, figurative language, and allegory.

Erin Lebacqz, Lecturer, teaches technical writing, composition, and composition pedagogy. She has taught writing, literature, humanities, and Honors courses in New Mexico and California. She has also published fiction and journalistic writing in various online and local journals.



Julianne Newmark, Lecturer, received her PhD from Wayne State University in 2004. She specializes in technical communication and American literary studies, with a focus on the literary reactions of multi-ethnic Americans to nativism in the early twentieth century. Additionally, she serves as an officer in the D.H. Lawrence Society of North America.

Current Student News

Publications

Karra Shimabukuro published "I Framed Freddy: Functional Aesthetics in the A Nightmare on Elm Street Series" in *Style and Form in the Hollywood Slasher Film*.

Kelly Hunnings published two reviews in the Rocky Mountain Review of Language and Literature. The first is of *Gender Hurts: A Feminist Analysis of the Politics of Transgenderism* by Sheila Jeffrey's (Routledge) and the second is of *Wordsworth and Welsh Romanticism* by James Prothero (Cambridge Scholars Publishing).

Awards and Fellowships

Stephanie Spong was awarded the Russell J. and Dorthey S. Bilinski Fellowship for 2015-2016.

Kalila Bohsali was one of five UNM undergraduates in the inaugural cohort of Mellon-Mays Fellows.

American Literary Studies doctoral students **Daoine Bachran** and **Natalie Kubasek** received UNM Mellon Dissertation Fellowships.

Julie Williams was named the recipient of the inaugural ALS Arms Dissertation Research Assistantship.

W. Oliver Baker has been named the 2015-2016 Center for Regional Studies Hector Torres fellow.

2015 Graduates

PhD Graduates

Christine Beagle, PhD in Rhetoric & Writing
Colleen Dunn, PhD in Medieval Studies
Annarose Fitzgerald, PhD in Language & Literature
Genevieve Garcia de Mueller, PhD in Rhetoric & Writing
Mellisa Huffman, PhD in Rhetoric & Writing
Valerie Kinsey, PhD in Rhetoric & Writing
Lisa Myers, PhD in Medieval Studies
Nicholas Schwartz, PhD in Medieval Studies
Jill Walker Gonzalez, PhD in American Literary Studies

MFA Graduates

Lucy Burns, MFA in Creative Writing
Jill Dehnert, MFA in Creative Writing
Logan MacClyment, MFA in Creative Writing

MA Graduates

Margaux Brown, MA in Language & Literature
Jessica Delaney, MA in Rhetoric & Writing
Janna Goodyear, MA in Rhetoric & Writing
Patricia O'Conner-Navrot, MA in Rhetoric & Writing
Bradley Tepper, MA in Language & Literature
Lauren Weber, MA in Rhetoric & Writing

Giving Opportunities Many of the accomplishments of our faculty, alumni, and students have been made possible by scholarships and fellowships established by alumni donations. If you would like to support one of our diverse scholarship and research opportunities, you can learn more about them and make an online gift by clicking on a fund name when you visit our [English Department Funds Page](#).

