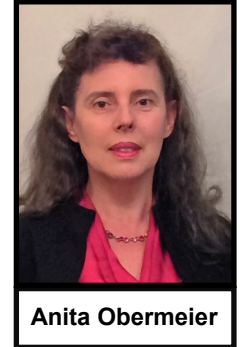




Letter from the Chair

With this 2016 installment of the UNM Department of English Newsletter, we hope to update our alumni/ae on our programs, faculty, students, and achievements. We have a thriving undergraduate program with 400+ majors and minors as well as a large graduate program that offers an MFA, three MA and three PhD concentrations in Literature, Medieval Studies, and Rhetoric and Writing. Our faculty have written a number of important books recently, and more are being published. See page 3 of this newsletter for instructions on how to submit your news and achievements for our [Alumni Spotlight](#) on the [Department Website](#).



Anita Obermeier

English Department Part of \$25,000 NEH Initiative



The English Department, along with the Departments of American Studies, History, and Linguistics, [has been chosen by the National Endowment for the Humanities \(NEH\)](#) to receive a grant in the amount of \$25,000 for the UNM initiative, [“LoboHUB \(Humanities Unbound\): Planning for the Next Generation of Humanities Scholars at UNM.”](#)

This initiative is aimed at bringing together the Humanities disciplines, Graduate Studies, alumni networks, and professional communities to discuss how to transform existing doctoral programs into education

models that prepare humanities scholars for careers in professions inside and outside of academia. These UNM departments will be participating in the Humanities Unbound initiative with 28 other colleges and universities which also received NEH grants. The grant requires that institutions raise matching funds to help implement the initiative.

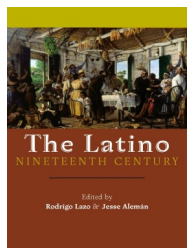
UNM Professors Lead Inaugural Study Abroad Program

Sarah Townsend, Assistant Professor of British and Irish Literary Studies, along with Assistant Professor of History, Caleb Richardson, led the inaugural two-week study abroad program, [“Imagining Ireland”](#) in Ireland in May 2016. The program included 19 undergraduate and 3 graduate students from across UNM. Students completed a four-week introductory course at UNM before participating in site-specific learning in multiple locations across Ireland. Students conducted independent research projects on sites of literary and historical significance in Ireland, and furthermore completed multimedia projects during the following Fall semester. Professors Townsend and Richardson hope to offer this program on a biennial basis.



Richardson and Townsend explore Dún Chonchúir, an ancient stone fort on Inis Meain, one of the Aran Islands. Students learned about the history of the island and J.M. Synge's anthropological study of its inhabitants.

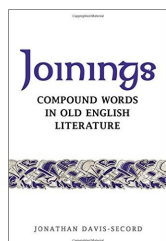
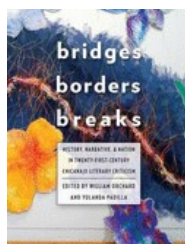
Current Faculty Publications



Jesse Alemán, Professor of American Literary Studies, [published his co-edited collection](#), titled *The Latino Nineteenth Century*.

Jesse Alemán also published "The Diachronics of

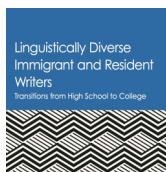
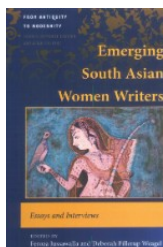
Difference: Chicano Narrative Then, Now, and Before Chicanidad" as the lead chapter in [Bridges, Borders, and Breaks: History, Narrative, and Nation in Twenty-First Century Chicana/o Literary Criticism](#).



Jonathan Davis-Secord, Associate Professor of Medieval Studies, recently published his book, [Joinings: Compound Words in Old English Literature](#).

David Dunaway, Professor of Creative Writing, in collaboration with ALS & BILS alumna, Stephanie Spong [published the article](#), "The Making of a Major-Minor Modernist," in the *Harvard Library Bulletin*.

Feroza Jussawalla, Professor of British and Irish Literary Studies, and co-editor Deborah Fillerup Weagel published, [Emerging South Asian Women Writers: Essays and Interviews](#).



Todd Ruecker, Assistant Professor of Rhetoric and Writing, co-published a new edited collection, [Linguistically Diverse Immigrant and Resident Writers: Transitions from High School to College](#).

Julianne Newmark, editor of the online journal, *Xchanges*, [published a new issue](#) in November.



Current Faculty News

Cristyn Elder, Assistant Professor of Rhetoric and Writing, has been [elected to the Executive Board of the Council of Writing Program Administrators](#).

Sarah L. Townsend, Assistant Professor of British and Irish Literary Studies, [presented papers](#) at the American Comparative Literature Association conference and the American Conference for Irish Studies.

Jesse Alemán, Professor of American Literary Studies, was [appointed to a three-year position on the MLA's Committee on the Literatures of People of Color in the United States and Canada](#).

Todd Ruecker, Assistant Professor of Rhetoric and Writing, was [invited to join the TESOL Quarterly editorial board](#).

Carolyn Woodward, Associate Professor of British and Irish Literary Studies, [presented "Sarah Fielding and Jane Collier: Music Parties!"](#) at the Western Society for Eighteenth Century Studies' meeting.

David Dunaway, Professor of Creative Writing, gave a [Lecture-Performance on Folk Musicians and the FBI](#).

Dr. Gail Houston, Professor of British & Irish Literary Studies, [gave the Inaugural Feminist Research Institute Distinguished Feminist Research Lecture](#) at the FRI's 20th Anniversary Celebration. Her presentation was titled, "Critical Empathy, Recuperating Passionate Foremothers and the Recuperation of Emotion."



Anaya Lecture Committee members Bernadine Hernandez, Catherine Hubka, Melina Vizcaino-Aléman, Lisa Chavez, Jack Trujillo, Marissa Clark with the speaker of the 7th annual Anaya Lecture on the Literature of the Southwest, Rigoberto González (center).

Current Faculty Awards



Cristyn Elder (left), Assistant Professor of Rhetoric and Writing, was [named Outstanding New Teacher of the Year](#) by the Center for Teaching Excellence.

Jesse Alemán (right), Professor of American Literary Studies, was [named the Presidential Teaching Fellow for 2016-2018](#) by the Center for Teaching Excellence.



Carmen Nocentelli, Associate Professor of English and Comparative Literature, [was awarded a National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship](#) at the Folger Shakespeare Library to work on her second book project, *Black Legends and the Invention of Europe*.

Marissa Greenberg [received a Shakespeare Folger Library Fellowship](#) to research her second book project, *Adam in the Motions: Revolution in Seventeenth-Century Literature*.



Current Faculty Awards

Bernadine Hernandez, Assistant Professor of American Literary Studies, [received four awards for her research](#). These awards will support her book project research, an archival project, and an event on gender and violence.



Ying Xu, an English instructor, [received the OCAC Best Practice award](#) for her ENGL 315 course titled, "Interdisciplinary Approaches to Literature: The Outlaw and the Outlawed in American Literature."

Bethany Davila and Cristyn Elder, Assistant Professors of Rhetoric and Writing, are the recipients of the [National Award for Innovation](#) for their design and implementation of the Stretch/Studio Composition program at UNM.



Alumni/ae News



Gail Houston, Phil Holcomb, Anita Obermeier, Rick Clement, and Gary Harrison.

Karen McKinnon [made a generous \\$100,000 donation](#) to the UNM Foundation to sponsor a Creative Writing Poetry contest for UNM undergraduates, [the first of which occurred in April 2017](#).



Karen McKinnon, Anita Obermeier, and Yolanda Dominguez

Denise Elia Chávez was presented with a [Paul Re Peace Prize Lifetime Achievement Award](#).

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

Emeriti/ae Faculty New

Rudolfo Anaya [recently published a new book](#), *The Sorrows of Young Alfonso*, and was [honored by President Barack Obama](#) with a 2015 National Humanities Medal.



Gary Harrison, Professor of British and Irish Literary Studies, [published the article, "Toward a Romantic Poetics of Acknowledgment: Wordsworth, Clare and Aldo Leopold's 'Land Ethic'"](#) in *Romantic Ecocriticism: Origins and Legacies*.

New Faculty



José Orduña

Joining the UNM English faculty as an assistant professor of creative writing, Orduña will also be serving as the Russo Chair in Creative Writing. He has recently published a new memoir titled, *The Weight of*

Shadows: A Memoir of Immigration & Displacement, which poignantly chronicles Orduña's journey towards U.S. Citizenship. He was born in Córdoba, Veracruz, and immigrated to Chicago when he was two. At nine, he and his parents traveled to Ciudad Juárez and filed for permanent residency. Having entered the US with a tourist visa, which had since expired, they were considered "removable aliens." In 2010, Orduña applied for naturalization, and in July of 2011 was sworn in as a citizen. He is a graduate of the Nonfiction Writing Program at the University of Iowa and is active in Latin American solidarity.

Jesús Costantino



Jesús (Jesse) Costantino joins the UNM English faculty as an assistant professor of American Literary Studies, doing research in 20th-Century American Literature, Film Studies, Critical Theory, Visual Culture, and Class and Race Studies. Costantino received his PhD from the University of California, Berkeley, in 2011. His approach to twentieth-century American literature and visual media combines aesthetic philosophy, theories of violence, and critical studies of class and race. He is currently completing his first book, *Fighting Form: Race, Abstraction, and American Visual Politics, 1880-1950*, in which he connects the seemingly disparate histories of modernist abstraction, new media technologies, and modern identity formations—race, ethnicity, class, gender, and sexuality—by accounting for their shared preoccupation with the sport of boxing.

Graduate Student News

Awards

Amy Gore received [two major awards](#) to support her dissertation research.

Karra Shimabukuro received [a conference presentation award](#) for the second year in a row from OGS.

Julie Williams is the recipient of the competitive [2015 Louis Owens Award](#); a [Doctoral Conference Presentation Award](#); a [grant from UNM's Feminist Research Institute](#); and the [Charles Redd Center for Western Studies Summer Research Award](#).

Calinda Shely and Katherine Alexander received [Graduate Student Success Scholarships](#).

Zoe Speidel was [selected as Teaching Assistant of the Year](#) by the Center for Teaching Excellence.

Fellowships

Ann D'Orazio and Julie Williams received [Bilinski Foundation Fellowships](#).

Doaa Omran received the highly competitive [Graduate Dean's Dissertation Fellowship](#).

Publications

Karra Shimabukuro co-edited [the most recent In-Focus section](#) on *Twin Peaks*.

Katherine Alexander recently [published a chapter](#) in *Critical Insights—Mary Shelley*.

Undergraduate Student News

Olivia Carpenter wrote an English Honors Thesis supervised by Professor Carolyn Woodward on the eighteenth-century writer Eliza Haywood. Carpenter will be [heading to Harvard for her PhD](#).

Kalila Bohsali and Melissa Baca [both received funding](#) to conduct research for major projects.

2016 Graduates

PhD Graduates

Daoine Bachran, American Literary Studies
Natalie Kubasek, American Literary Studies
Janelle Ortega, British and Irish Literary Studies
Calinda Shely, British and Irish Literary Studies
Stephanie Spong, American Literary Studies

MFA Graduates

Daniel Berger, Nonfiction
Melisa Garcia, Poetry
Brenna Gomez, Fiction
Matthew Maruyama, Nonfiction
Kathryne Lim, Poetry
Ann Olsen, Nonfiction
Lynn Wohlwend, Nonfiction

MA Graduates

Amanda Amstutz, Rhetoric & Writing
Elizabeth Benedict, Language & Literature
Margaux Brown, Language & Literature
Kelsey Byrne, Language & Literature
Corrine Clark, Language & Literature
Taylor Diaz, Language & Literature
Erin Fitzgerald, Rhetoric & Writing
Jeffrey Hunt, Language & Literature
Megan Malcolm-Morgan, Language & Literature
JoAnna Phillips, Rhetoric & Writing
Breanne Potter, Rhetoric & Writing
Samantha Ridgway, Language & Literature
Christopher Ryan, Rhetoric & Writing
Julian Sanchez, Language & Literature
Zoe Speidel, Rhetoric & Writing
Catherine Suiter, Rhetoric & Writing
Hilary Wainwright, Rhetoric & Writing
Sarah Worland, Language & Literature

Giving Opportunities

Many of the accomplishments of our faculty, alumni/ae, 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](#).