



Welcome from the Chair

I must apologize for the long silence. At the end of Fall of 2024, we vacated the Humanities Building — home of the English Department for 50 years. Still mostly in clusters, we are scattered across seven buildings. Our main hub is in Parish Library, which is now renovated as an office building. While such incisions are highly disruptive, we have resituated ourselves and are charging ahead with our mission. The Humanities Building has now been razed, and the new building is scheduled to be ready in Fall 2028.



Anita Obermeier

We wish you Happy Holidays and a wonderful 2026, and encourage you all to keep in touch, as we greatly enjoy celebrating the many accomplishments of our students, faculty, and alumni/ae through our [newsletters](#) and [blog](#). If you would like to feature your accomplishments in our next newsletter as well as on our [website](#), please fill out and submit [this form](#) for our [Alumni Spotlight](#), or email us at english@unm.edu.

Faculty News



Alemán

Jesse Alemán, ALS Professor and Interim Dean of Graduate Studies, has been named the 2023-2024 Mellon Distinguished Scholar in Residence at the American Antiquarian Society (AAS) in Worcester, MA.



Hernández

Bernadine Hernández, Associate Professor in American Literary Studies, has won multiple book awards for her book, *Border Bodies: Racialized Sexuality, Sexual Capital and Violence in the Nineteenth Century Borderlands* (UNC Press, 2022). Hernández won the American Association of Hispanics in Higher Education Mid Career Book Award. *Border Bodies* was furthermore the National Women's Studies Association 2023 Gloría Anzaldúa Book Prize Honorable Mention.



Hernandez

American Literary Studies Assistant Professor, **Sarah Hernandez** (Singaci Lakota) is featured in issue 36.2 of *Wicazo Sa Review*. For this special issue, Dr. Hernandez wrote reflections about Elizabeth Cook Lynn (Crow Creek Dakota) as a mentor in Native Studies.

Faculty News (Continued)



Momaday

Navarre Scott Momaday, Visiting Professor of Creative Writing and one of the giants of Native American Literature passed away on January 24th, 2024 at the age of 89. Momaday was the first Native American Pulitzer Prize winner whose debut novel, "House Made of Dawn" is widely credited as the starting point for contemporary Native American literature. Though Momaday taught at Stanford, Princeton, and Columbia universities, among other top-ranking schools, he taught for the UNM English Department until just before the pandemic. He published more than a dozen books, from "Angle of Geese and Other Poems" to the novels, "The Way to Rainy Mountain" and "The Ancient Child." He was additionally a commentator for NPR, gave lectures worldwide, and became a leading advocate for the beauty and vitality of traditional Native life.

Daniel Mueller, Professor of Creative Writing published his third collection of short fiction, *Anything You Recognize* with Outpost 19 Books.

Lisa Myers, who is a Term Lecturer in Medieval and Early Modern literature, as well as a 2015 alumna in Medieval Studies, received the College of Arts and Sciences Teaching Excellence Award for Adjunct Faculty. She also published her article, "Artoria Pendragon: Anachronism, Gender and Self-Acceptance in the *Fate* Anime series of Kinoko Nasu and Takashi Takeuchi," in *Studies in Medievalism XXXIII: (En) gendering Medievalism*.



Myers



Mueller

Julianne Newmark, Director of Technical and Professional Communication, delivered a lecture at the Universidad Autónoma de México. Newmark's talk was entitled, "Representations of Transborder Indigeneity in D. H. Lawrence: Learning from *in situ* Reception." Newmark also facilitated a workshop entitled "Academic Writing and Beyond."



Newmark



Faculty News (Continued)



Obermeier

Anita Obermeier, Professor of Medieval Studies, Anita Obermeier delivered her keynote address “Egypt in the Mind of the European Middle Ages” at the “Rethinking Marginality: Inclusion and Ableism” conference at Pharos University in Alexandria, Egypt.



Otaño Gracia

Assistant Professor of Medieval Studies Professor, **Nahir Otaño Gracia** received the UNM College of Arts and Sciences Marshall Award for shifting the focus of World Literature I (ENGL 2650) by prioritizing non-European texts and narratives.



Xu

Term Teacher, **Ying Xu’s** translation of Leslie Marmon Silko’s *Ceremony* was published in China by Zhejian Arts and Literature Publishing Press.



Graduate Student News



Aniegboka

Kani Aniegboka, who is working on his MFA degree and teaching both Core Writing and Creative Writing, was co-awarded the College of Arts and Sciences Teaching Excellence Award for Teaching Assistants.



Henke

MFA student, **Gwyneth Henke** earned a second-place award in the 2024 Larry Morris Memorial Scholarship.

Ian McLaughlin (MA MLIS) published a paper titled, “Giving Wands Their Due: *Harry Potter*, Speculative Realism, and the Power of Objects,” in *Fafnir – Nordic Journal of Science Fiction and Fantasy Research*.



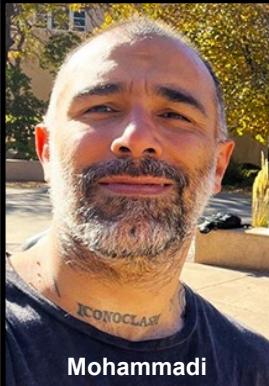
McLaughlin

PhD Student in American Literary Studies, **Madeline Rose Mendoza** (Pueblo of Laguna/Ohkay Owingeh), was promoted to book editor for the *Wicazo Sa Review (WSR)*.



Mendoza

Graduate Student News (Continued)



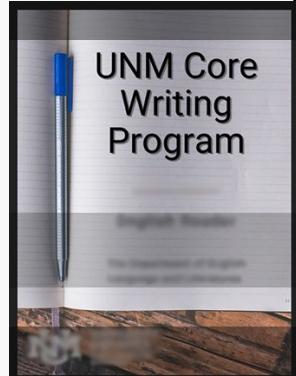
Mehdi Mohammadi, PhD Student in Rhetoric & Writing, had his article, “Rhetoric and Posthumanism” featured in a leading online peer-reviewed resource dedicated to posthumanism studies, *Critical Posthumanism: Genealogy of the Posthuman*. He also published, “Embodiment in Posthuman Rhetoric” in *Critical Posthumanism* as well.



Brandy Reeves ALS PhD Student, received the CRS Graduate Fellowship for the 2023-2024 academic year. Recent MFA graduate, **Anthony Yarbrough** recently received the first-place Larry Morris Memorial Scholarship.



A group of English Department Core Writing instructors, working in collaboration with the University Libraries Open Educational Resources (OER) initiative, have created a new online textbook for UNM students enrolled in freshman English classes.



Undergraduate Student News

Karen McKinnon Poetry Award
Winners! 1st place went to **Isabella Clarke** for “the hotel”; 2nd place went to **Tanya Tyler** for “To My Yáázh”; 3rd place went to **Kadra Guillermo** for “Lonely the Jackrabbit.”



Undergraduate English major, **Jasmine Partain** was awarded third place in the University Libraries Hulsmann Undergraduate Library Research Awards. Jasmine is a senior. The award was for her work *Parable of the Sower* by Octavia E. Butler, recommended by her English Instructor, Gwyneth Henke.



Undergraduate Student News (Continued)

First Place (Tie) for The Jim and Mary Lois Hulsman Undergraduate Library Research Award:

Michael A. Chavez

Women, Nature, and Culture: Critical Ecofeminist

Theory in Listening Woman

Recommended by Dr. Sarah Hernandez



Chavez

Szabo-Smith

Kori Szabo-Smith

Too Male to Fail: How Gender Disparity Manifests Within Owensboro's K-12 Education System Under the Status Quo

Recommended by Dr. Ying Xu

Emeriti/ae & Alumni/ae News



Jussawalla

Feroza Jussawalla, Professor Emerita of British and Irish Literary Studies, recently published her poem, "More Chile and Less Curry" in *Silver Birch Press*.



Lowrance

Emma B. Mincks, who graduated with a PhD in British & Irish Literary Studies was featured in issue 36.2 of *Wicazo Sa Review* where she reviewed the hybrid memoir *Seven Aunts* by Staci Lynn Drouillard (Grand Portage Band of Ojibwe). Additionally, Dr. Mincks published various articles with *Source, NM*, which is an online newspaper focusing on issues local to New Mexico; and additionally had her article, "For All the Queer NDN Foster Kids Out There" published in *Trans Studies Quarterly*.



Mincks

Laurie Lowrance, who received her PhD in American Literary Studies in 2021, started a tenure-track position at Schreiner University. Lowrance defended her dissertation, "Regional Domesticities: Recalling, Rewriting, and Redefining Gender in the Southwest" in Spring 2021 under the directorship of American Literary Studies Professor, Jesse Alemán.



Perry-Rummel

Lauren Perry-Rummel, alumna of the ALS Ph.D. program, published her first monograph with Rowman & Littlefield/Lexington Books titled, *Animal Texts: Critical Animal Concepts for American Environmental Literature*.



Emeriti/ae & Alumni/ae News (Continued)



Beverly Army Williams, who graduated with an MFA in 2008 published, “Words as the Way” with *The Rumpus*. Williams additionally recently accepted the role of the inaugural Executive Director of General Education and High Impact Practices at Westfield State University in Westfield, MA, where she has taught in the English Department since 2006.



Anne Hillerman, who graduated from UNM with a journalism degree, and **Dave Tedlock**, who graduated from UNM with a BA in English, have coauthored a short story, “The Package” in the short story collection, *Mystery Most International*.



Sunnie R. Clahchischiligi, recent Ph.D. graduate, along with **Julianne Newmark**, a Principal Lecturer & Director of Technical and Professional Communication, and **Joseph Bartolotta**, Associate Professor at Hofstra University, and a former faculty member in English at UNM, co-authored a chapter published in the book *Global Rhetorics of Science*, released by SUNY Press. The chapter was entitled, “This Is a Viral Story about Viral Stories: Image and Graphical Power in COVID Communication in the Navajo Nation.”

Find out more about the accomplishments of our alumni/ae on our [Alumni Spotlight Page](#). We'd love to share your news and accomplishments in our next newsletter, please complete and submit [this form](#) with an update and any relevant photos.

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](#).



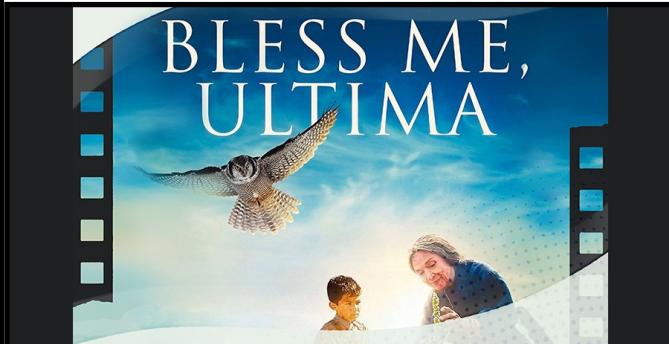
Past Events



The English Department faculty, staff, graduate and undergraduate students joined colleagues from the Institute of Medieval Studies to host the 2nd annual Helen Damico Memorial Lecture Series (36th Spring Lecture Series), *Re-Envisioning the Middle Ages* on campus at George Pearl Hall. The series kicked off with Department Chair, Anita Obermeier's biannual medieval banquet where Dr. Obermeier treated students, faculty, staff, and alumni to a feast with historical medieval recipes. Guest speakers at this year's Medieval Lecture Series included Roland Betancourt from the University of California, Irvine; Frederick S. Paxton from Connecticut College; Matthew X. Vernon from the University of California, Davis; and Suzanne Conklin Akbari from the Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton University.



Ford Peay, Lukus Malaney, Jessie Bonafede, Anita Obermeier



The English Department partnered with the National Hispanic Cultural Center (NHCC) to host a 2nd annual film screening of Carl Franklin's 2012 film adaptation of Rudolfo Anaya's 1972 novel, *Bless Me, Ultima*.

The Institute for

Medieval Studies proudly hosted its first annual IMS Medieval Times Faire on UNM Campus in Smith Plaza for medieval-themed activities, games, demonstrations, and performances by local artisans, businesses, and organizations from UNM and the Albuquerque community.



Piatote

The English Department hosted Nez Perce author and scholar, **Beth Piatote** to campus for a reading and lecture. Dr. Piatote read selections from *The Beadworkers*, as part of the Russo Reading Series. Piatote additionally presented a scholarly lecture titled, "Translating Land Through Language." Beth Piatote is an associate professor of English and Comparative Literature at the University of California Berkeley, and is the author of two books: the scholarly monograph, *Domestic Subjects: Gender, Citizenship, and the Law in Native American Literature* (Yale 2013), and the mixed-genre collection, *The Beadworkers: Stories* (Counterpoint 2019).

