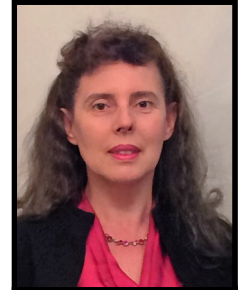




Welcome from the Chair

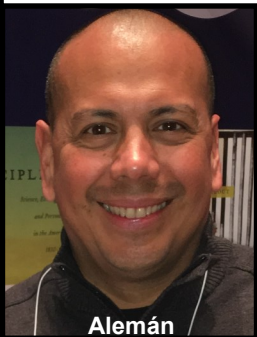
After a somewhat protracted winter with repeated snow delays and cancellations, Spring has finally sprung on the UNM campus, and we are now teaching maskless for the first time since spring 2020. I am pleased to report that our recent fund-raising blitz for the Dr. Hector A. Torres Endowed Memorial Fund was successful towards ensuring the continued longevity of this important resource for students of Chicano Literature. I would like to point you to another opportunity to support Chicano/a Literature by honoring local legend, Professor Emeritus, and National Humanities Medal winner, the late Rudolpho Anaya. Please see [page 7](#) for more information.



Anita Obermeier

The English Department enjoys 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, Professor of American Literary Studies and Associate Dean for Graduate Studies has been named to the editorial board of *American Literature*. He was also recently named the chair of the American Literature Society's highly competitive 1921 Prize in American Literature for a three-year term.



Bourelle

Stephen Benz, Associate Professor of Rhetoric & Writing received the Keleher/Telfair Hendon Award.



Benz

Tiffany Bourelle, Associate Professor of Rhetoric & Writing and Assistant Chair for eComp, along with **Rachael Reynolds** and **Julianne Newmark**, both Lecturers in Rhetoric & Writing, recently won a Teaching Allocation Grant to train Teaching Assistants to use technology effectively in their first-year composition classes. Julie Newmark additionally co-authored a chapter in *Effective Teaching of Technical Communication: Theory, Practice, and Application* with Dr. Joseph Bartolotta of Hofstra University, published by WAC Clearinghouse/University Press of Colorado.



Newmark



Reynolds

Faculty News (Continued)



Jesse Costantino, Assistant Professor of American Literary Studies was the inaugural winner of the Mimi Reisel Gladstein Research and Travel Award for his paper “Uneven Architectures: Ruin and Rubble in Contemporary Mexico City.”

Jonathan Davis-Secord, Associate Professor of Medieval Studies, published an op-ed in *The Washington Post* on the origins and history of the term “Anglo-Saxon” in relation to the peoples of early medieval England.



In association with co-editor Laura Gonzalez of the University of Florida, **Michelle Kells**, Professor of Rhetoric & Writing, published *Latina Leadership: Language and Literacy Education across Communities*. Additionally, Kells and Professor Levi Romero of Chicano Studies received a research grant from the Center for Regional Studies for their collaborative project, “La Cultura Cure: Testimonios de la Nueva Mexico Digital Archive Project.”



Creative Writing Professor, poet, and Associate Chair for Undergraduate Studies, **Diane Thiel** was named Regents Professor and additionally garnered the Elizabeth Wertheim Faculty Research Award.



Assistant Professor of British & Irish Literary Studies, **Sarah Townsend** received Arts and Sciences New Teacher of the Year award.



Belinda Wallace, Assistant Professor of British & Irish Literary Studies, published, “Our Lives: Scribal Activism, Intimacy, and Black Lesbian Visibility in 1980s Canada” in a special issue of the *Journal of Canadian Studies* on queer Canadian studies.

Associate Professor of American Literary Studies, **Kathryn Wichelns** published, “Black Realism Matters; or, A Syllabus is Still a Terrible Thing to Waste” in *American Realism & Naturalism*.



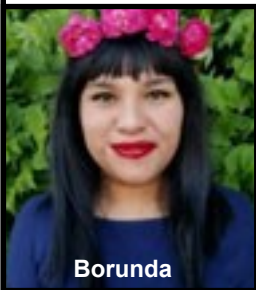
Graduate Student News



Bohsali

The College of Arts and Sciences Teaching Excellence Award for Graduate Teaching Assistants went to **Kalila Bohsali**, a PhD student in American Literary Studies.

Andrea Borunda, a PhD Candidate in British & Irish Literary Studies, was awarded a Russell J. and Dorothy S. Bilinski Fellowship for her dissertation titled, "Mestizaje Maneuverings in Shakespeare's Tragicomedies."



Borunda

Michelle Gurule, MFA student, won first prize in a nonfiction contest held by Rutgers University - Camden literary magazine *Story Quarterly* with her essay, "Exit Route."

The Susan Deese-Roberts Outstanding Teaching Assistant of the Year went to **Stéfan Koekemoer** and **Anja Sanchez** who are both MA students in Medieval Studies.



Gurule

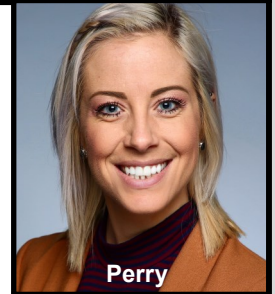
American Literary Studies PhD Student, **Lauren Perry** contributed a chapter titled, "The Animal Survives: Sarah Orne Jewett's 'A White Heron' Intervenes as Survivor of the Industrialized World" to a published collection from *Springer Nature*.

PhD Student in American Literary Studies, **David Puthoff's** article, "'To Make Discoveries in Those Latitudes': Utopia and Settles Colonialism in Equality; or, a History of Lithconia" has been published in an issue of *Utopian Studies*.

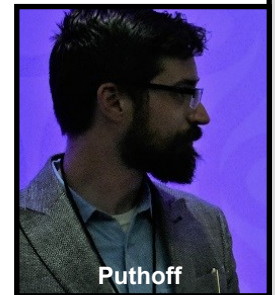


Koekemoer

Vicki Vanbrocklin, PhD Candidate in American Literary Studies, garnered both a Russell J. and Dorothy S. Bilinski Fellowship and a Center for Regional Studies Fellowship. Vanbrocklin was furthermore named as a runner up for the 2021-2022 Deans Graduate Dissertation Fellowship. Her dissertation is entitled *More than the Defiant Few: Lost Womanhood and Necro Women Dismantling Nineteenth-Century Gender Ideologies*.



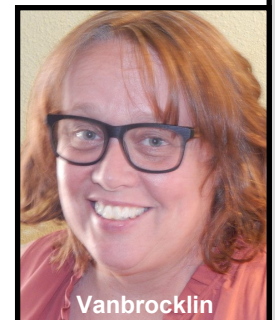
Perry



Puthoff



Sanchez



Vanbrocklin

Graduate Student News (Continued)

Spring 2021 Graduates

David Bommarito, MA Rhetoric and Writing

Jennifer Conn, MFA Poetry

Darren Donate, MFA Poetry

Amarlie Foster, MFA Fiction

Seth Garcia, MFA Poetry

Michelle Gurule, MFA Nonfiction

Michael Hodock, MA Literature

Lily Intong, MA Rhetoric and Writing

Rachel Johnson, MFA Fiction

Jane Kalu, MFA Fiction

Stéfan Koekemoer, MA Medieval Studies

Gerard Lavin, PhD British & Irish Literary Studies

Laurie Lowrance, PhD American Literary Studies

Stacy Lunsford, MA Rhetoric and Writing

Gabrielle Márquez, MA Literature

Jasmine McSparren, MA Literature

Mario Montoya, MFA Nonfiction

Emily Murphy, MA Literature

Cynthia Padilla Rodgers, MA Literature

Lauren Perry, PhD American Literary Studies

David Puthoff, PhD American Literary Studies

Rebekah Rendon, MA Literature

Katherine Walker, MA Literature



Undergraduate Student News

Congratulations to the 5th Annual Karen McKinnon Poetry Contest Winners! **Mia Sutanto** won first place for "Rez Life," **Solana Armijo** won second place for "The River," and **Andrea Chin-Lopez** won third place for "Cultural Feast."



Sutanto



Armijo



Chin-Lopez

Several English Department undergraduate students were published in the 2021 edition of UNM's Nonfiction Review, *Limina*:

John Scott published a Photo Essay titled, "Black Lives Matter."

Spenser Willden published a reflective memoir titled, "In the Shadow of God(s)."

Jeanette DeDios published a culture and film piece titled, "Misrepresentations of Native Americans in Media."

Staff News



We wish to extend a warm welcome to our new Department Administrator, **Valerie Bugaj Lacy**. Valerie has been affiliated with UNM since 1995, which is when she moved to Albuquerque from her hometown of Tularosa, NM to begin her undergraduate studies. She graduated from UNM with a B.A. in Communication and a minor in Geography in Spring 2000. During her time as a student, Valerie worked at Zimmerman Library, the Student Financial Aid office, and for SUB Catering.

She began her employment as an official member of UNM staff with the Registrar's office in 2006, where she held various positions over the following 15 years. Her duties included overseeing the awarding of certificates and degrees, printing and disbursement of diplomas for all UNM graduates, coordinating the University's curriculum changes, as well as the yearly publication of the UNM Catalog.

Valerie joined the English department in January 2021 and is excited to be part of the vibrant and diverse environment of academia. She shares that each day at the Department brings a new learning experience, and she especially appreciates collaborating with other English Department staff members. Welcome to the Department, Valerie!

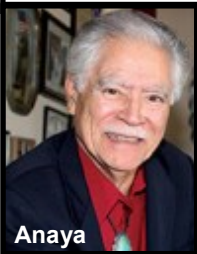


Susan McAllister, our Program Specialist, won one of four 2021 Outstanding Staff Awards at UNM. She has provided excellent administrative support for the Core Writing Program, as well as assisting with many special projects and grants within the Department. She furthermore works diligently on behalf of the Department's public-facing programs including the D.H. Lawrence Ranch Initiatives, the D.H. Lawrence Lecture, the Mary Power Lecture in Irish Studies, and the Rudolfo and Patricia Anaya Lecture on the Literature of the Southwest. Congratulations, Susan! The Department is thrilled to have you as a member of our staff.

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](#).

Emeriti/ae Faculty News



Anaya

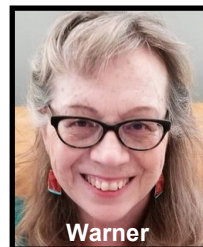
Blue Mesa Review published Issues to honor the life and work of Rudolfo Anaya, including an essay in tribute to the late Professor Emeritus and “Grandfather of Chicano Literature.” Additionally, in partnership with KUNM’s Generation Justice and Spoken Word Hour, the Anaya Lecture on the Literature of the Southwest presented a two-hour radio tribute to Anaya that featured local poets.



Damico

The Institute for Medieval Studies renamed its long-running Spring Lecture Series after the late Professor Emerita and founder of the Institute, **Helen Damico**.

Professor Emerita of Creative Writing, **Sharon Warner** published *Writing the Novella*, the first craft book dedicated to the genre of the novella.



Warner

Alumni/ae News



Haaland

Deb Haaland, previously a New Mexico congresswoman and alumna of UNM, was confirmed to President Joe Biden’s Cabinet as the first Native American Secretary of the Interior.

UNM Alumnus, **N. Scott Momaday** received the Frost Model for distinguished lifetime achievement in poetry from the Poetry Society of America.



Momaday

David Morgan O’Connor who received his MFA in Fiction, was announced as the winner of the 2021 Cúirt New Writing Prize for “Antoine Solomon Takes a Job.”

Jennifer Simpson, a beloved member of the UNM Creative Writing community, passed away at 56 years old. She was a marketing consultant who believed in the power of stories to change the world and an active community builder in Albuquerque.



O’Connor



Simpson

Find out more about the accomplishments of our alumni/ae in 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.

Please consider donating to the [Rudolfo Anaya Sala Fund](#), which will fund the creation of a memorial commemorating the life and works of Rudolfo Anaya within Zimmerman Library. This memorial will include a digital wall tribute, new display cabinets and furniture, signage and other elements to make this space not only a comfortable area to sit and reflect, but furthermore an educational space to discover more about Anaya's life and his tremendous contribution to Chicano Literature.



Rudolfo Anaya is recognized around the world for his works portraying the Chicano experience, and was heralded as the Godfather of Chicano Literature. The University of New Mexico is privileged to hold a significant portion of Anaya's manuscripts and papers in its University Libraries Center for Southwest Research special collections, and additionally created and hosts the Rudolfo Anaya Digital Archive, an online resource that showcases Anaya's life and work. Because of your contribution to the [Rudolfo Anaya Sala Fund](#), we will have a dedicated memorial space where students can learn about Rudolfo Anaya's many contributions, as well as be inspired to create and express themselves through the written word.

Visit [UNM Fund](#) at www.unmfund.org/fund/rudolfo-anaya-sala-fund/ to learn more and to contribute.