



Welcome from the Chair

The English Department is grateful to Virginia and Edward Fultz for endowing the Virginia R. Fultz Fund for English Language and Literature Scholarships, especially for students who promote English Language and Literature as a career for women and members of underrepresented groups. On another note: An era might be coming to an end. The Humanities Building, home of the English Department for 50 years, now is slated to be replaced. Preliminary planning for a new building has started but timelines are still up in the air. Wish us luck!



Anita Obermeier

We 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



Benz

Stephen Benz, Associate Professor of Professional Writing, was awarded the 2022 Ron Rash Award in Poetry by the *Broad River Review* for his poem, "Uncle Jerry, Missing in Action." Benz additionally published his fourth book of creative nonfiction, *Reading the Signs and other itinerant essays* (Etruscan Press). His poems have also recently been chosen as finalists for contests sponsored by The Telluride Institute and Outermost Community Radio in Cape Cod.



Haynie

Andrew Bourelle, Associate Professor of Creative Writing and Rhetoric and Writing, won the Elizabeth Wertheim Faculty Research Award.



Bourelle

Aeron Haynie, Associate Professor of British and Irish Studies, co-authored a book titled, *Teaching Matters: A Guide for Graduate Students* through West Virginia University Press. Haynie also co-published an article with *Inside Higher Ed* titled, "Teaching Advice for Grad Students."



Hernandez

Sarah Hernandez, Assistant Professor of American Literature Studies, published her first book titled, *We Are the Stars: Colonizing and Decolonizing the Oceti Sakowin Literary Tradition*. Hernandez's book is published by the University of Arizona Press in the U.S., and the University of Regina Press in Canada.

Faculty News (Continued)

Hofer



Carmen Nocentelli, Associate Professor of British & Irish Literary Studies, published an essay titled, “Rereading Elizabeth I as Europa” in *PMLA*.

Anita Obermeier, Professor of Medieval Studies, contributed a chapter titled, “Putative Auto-Antifeminism: Medieval Women Writers as Geniuses,” in *Weibliche Genieentwürfe Geschichte des schöpferischen Subjekts (Women Geniuses: an Alternative History of Feminine Creativity)*.

Ying Xu, Instructor, was interviewed by KOAT 7 for Asian American and Pacific Islander Month to discuss her archival research on The 1882 Territory of New Mexico v. Yee Shun case that set a legal precedent in a judicial decision granting non-Christian Chinese the right to testify in court.

Belinda Wallace, Associate Professor of British & Irish Literary Studies, won the Keleher/Telfair Hendon Award, which goes to junior professors for noteworthy contributions to the English Department.



Obermeier



Wallace



Nocentelli



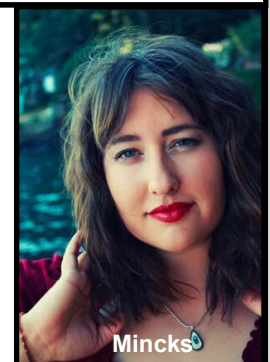
Xu

Graduate Student News



Bonafede

Jessie Bonafede, PhD Candidate in Medieval Studies celebrated the end of the semester with the students in her English 2630 British Literature I class with an in class soiree featuring music and recipes that predate 1800. Bonafede additionally made it a priority to feature the Center for Southwest Research and Special Collections in her classes as an experiential learning opportunity for her students.



Mincks

Emma B. Mincks, PhD Candidate in British & Irish Literary Studies & Bilinski Fellow was named one of the Northeast Victorian Studies Association’s Mentorship Fellows for 2022-23. Mincks additionally published a collaborative article with **Tania L. Balderas**, PhD Candidate in American Literary Studies, on graduate worker organizing in Cambridge University Press’ International Labor and Working Class History Journal. The article is titled, “Against Normalcy: A Collective Testimony of Student Workers Organizing During the Pandemic.”



Balderas



Graduate Student News (Continued)

2022/2023 Graduates

Laura Anderson, MA Language & Literature

Tania Balderas, PhD American Literary Studies

Kimberly Blake, MA Language & Literature

Averie Basch, MA Medieval Studies

Andrea Borunda, PhD BILS

Sunnie Clahchischiligi, PhD Rhetoric & Writing

Todd Cronkhite, PhD American Literary Studies

Alexander Henkle, MA Language & Literature

Sinae Kang, PhD British & Irish Literary Studies

Emma Mincks, PhD British & Irish Literary Studies

Ruben Miranda-Juarez, MFA Fiction

Tyler Morensen-Hayes, MFA Poetry

Joanna Neveda, PhD Rhetoric & Writing

Evelyn Olmos Ontiveros, MFA Poetry

Charles O'Melia, MFA Fiction

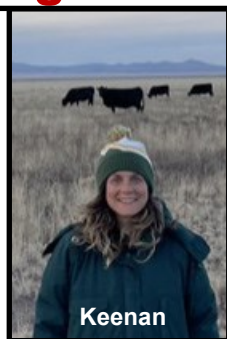
Joshua Sanchez, MA Language & Literature

Cyrus Stuvland, MFA Nonfiction

Sofia Tarabrina, PhD Rhetoric & Writing

Jared Valdez, PhD American Literary Studies

Undergraduate Student News



Charlotte Gates was one of two UNM students named as Fulbright English Teaching Assistants.

Congratulations to the 7th Annual Karen McKinnon Poetry Award Winners:

Tessa Keenan won 1st place prize for “Facets;”

Phia Smith won 2nd place for “Tomorrow I will pour you out;”

Elijah Padilla won 3rd place for “another poem about autumn and death.”

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 & Alumni/ae News



Gurule

Michelle Gurule, MFA Alumna, received a notable mention in Harper Collins' most recent edition of their annual "Best American Essays" series.

Joy Harjo, alumna and critically-acclaimed poet, won Yale University's 2023 Bollingen Prize for American Poetry for her book, *Weaving Sundown in a Scarlet Light: Fifty Poems for Fifty Years* and for her lifetime achievement in and contributions to American poetry.



Skeets

Feroza Jussawalla, Professor Emerita of British & Irish Literary Studies, contributed a chapter titled, "Pride, Prejudice and Precarity in Sri Lanka: A Reading of Yasmine Gooneratne's *Sweet and Simple Kind*" in *Representations of Precarity in South Asian Literature in English*.



Harjo

Jake Skeets, alumnus and National Poetry Series Award winning poet taught a poetry master class at UNM. All the creative writing sections in the Spring 2023 read Skeet's work - in particular, his lyric essay "Poetry as Field" and his poem "America", which can be found on *World Literature Today*.



Spong

Stephanie Spong, alumna and Director for the UNM Center for Digital Learning co-authored a book titled, "Teaching Matters: A Guide for Graduate Students." Spong additionally co-published an article with *Inside Higher Ed* titled, "Teaching Advice for Grad Students."

James Thorson, Professor Emeritus of American Literature, passed away on April 5, 2023. Thorson was a Professor of English and American Literature at the University of New Mexico from 1965 until his retirement in 2002. He had interests in Restoration and 18th-Century English literature, as well as Native American literature, which was a passion born and nurtured in New Mexico. Thorson was thrilled to introduce many faculty and students around the world to the beauties of Native American poetry, fiction, and creative non-fiction. He will be dearly missed.



Jussawalla



Thorson

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.