

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS BULLETIN

Those who can, do. Those who understand, teach. ~Lee Shulman



NML
LOS ALAMOS

DEAN'S MESSAGE

Happy Spring, everyone!

We are heading into the home stretch with just a few more weeks until graduation. The days are generally warmer and the skies just that much bluer. I've been so pleased to see so many students and faculty on campus this past month, which makes for vibrancy and connection! I hope that trend continues.

One of the big reasons for so many students is the presence on campus of the cohort of N3B students taking Radiation Control Technology (RCT) classes. They've meant a much fuller parking lot and business for Secret City Kitchen (open Tuesdays through Thursdays!). We thank N3B for their partnership with UNM-LA and hope to see it grow.

I want to take this opportunity again to congratulate Dr. Min Ro for his winning of this year's Faculty Excellence Award! It was a well-deserved testament to Min's ongoing dedication as a UNM-LA faculty member who helps to make this community.

This spring witnesses the departure (detailed in these pages) of yet more members of our academic community as part of the broader "Great Resignation" of the American workforce brought about the impacts of Covid. For our campus, this decimation of our continuing faculty and staff, with its attendant loss of expertise and institutional memory, means we face significant challenges to our ongoing ability to effectively serve our students.

We will be posting a handful of faculty and staff positions in the coming months in efforts to fill our holes. If you have colleagues who you think would be a good fit for us, please reach out to them to apply.

Finally, like everyone else on campus, I grieve the loss of our colleague, Bill Gilson, who provided so much kind technical support to so many of us, including me this past year. His gentle and thoughtful approach to solving problems will be missed. However, DeBray Bailey is a highly capable resource for us and we appreciate his own substantial efforts. Please do recognize that he now has double the work and may not get to our needs as quickly.

Many thanks for the way each of you steps up every day to make UNM-LA a success!

– Paul





OFFICE OF INSTRUCTION

This month the Faculty Operations Committee undertook a survey of faculty to determine ways that the college might make the Faculty Assembly function more effectively. Significantly, two-thirds of respondents reported having attended an Assembly meeting in the past, with the remainder indicating mostly that scheduling was an issue. Results were split regarding a desire for face-to-face vs remote meetings vs hybrid meetings. A significant majority of respondents indicated wanting the meetings to have more focused topics like professional development and pedagogy.

For detailed results, see [here](#).

In other news:

- We are pleased to announce that in January, UNM-LA was awarded \$8000 in a competitive grant from Triad (LANL's governing body) for the purchase of EMT and Welding equipment essential for preparing an up-to-date workforce.

We are beginning planning for Study Time for Finals to provide extra assistance and supportive atmosphere for your students who might need a little help or encouragement. Stay tuned!

- The Final Exam Schedule will soon be out. When you get it, please share the information with your students, especially if the examination time period may be longer than the usual class time.
- The Office of Instruction will be undergoing some reorganization over the summer which will include the addition of two new staff positions. Stay tuned.

Finally, we want to summarize this year's resignations and retirements, which results in a reduction of almost 50% of our personnel:

- Reuben Sanchez, English
- Michael McNaughton, Physics (still teaching as adjunct)
- Mario Velardi, Engineering (now on joint appointment with LANL)
- Kateri Morris, Dean's office administrator
- Thomas Beach, Physics
- Nicole Lloyd-Ronning, Physics (still teaching as adjunct)
- Kris Nadler, Psychology
- Linda Barril, Instructional Media
- Laura Reyes Haro, Teaching Lab Technician
- Pat Harris, Art Studio
- Jane Clements, Adult Education
- Steve Dawald, Fire Science
- Susan Schauer, Biology



IMPORTANT DATES

- **April 11** - registration opens for Summer and Fall
- **April 22, 25, 28** - Get Up and Running with Canvas Workshops, in person Canvas workshops (12-2 pm, room 628)
- **May 3, 4, 5** - Study Time for Finals event
- **May 13** - UNM Los Alamos Graduation - 6:00 pm, Duane Smith Auditorium
- **May 19** - Spring 2022 LoboWeb grade entry deadline @ 5 pm

ACADEMIC DIVISIONS



MATHEMATICS AND ENGINEERING DIVISION

Engineering/Science Collaboration

This spring, thanks to significant savings in the Office of Instruction, academic departments had an exceptional opportunity to purchase equipment and acquire other instructional supplies. A part of these unexpected funds was used by the Science and Engineering departments to upgrade and re-stock the science and engineering/electronics labs. The goal of this improvement is to have dedicated equipment in each lab.

Physics faculty Mike McNaughton, Physics and Engineering faculty Dan Creveling, and Engineering faculty Zack Baker reviewed the current equipment stock to determine what is functional and what can be used in each lab for better utilization of the equipment based on discipline's needs. They shared advice in selecting the

type of technical equipment needed and that is most suitable for teaching labs to be more effective. This included oscilloscopes, waveform generators, multimeters and dual-output power supplies. Mike, Dan, and Zack also provided vendor information and links, which helped facilitate the procurement process. Due to this incredible collaboration, the orders were placed quickly to meet the April 1 deadline. We are very excited about this opportunity to improve our labs and will coordinate the receiving and testing of the equipment, which will be in place for summer and fall labs.

Mechanical Engineering Open House

On Friday, April 8, we hosted the an Open House for current ASPE and BSME students and for prospective mechanical engineering students. This was a great opportunity for students to network with university faculty and professionals from the LANL. The event took place in the Robotics Lab in Building 4.



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The event was a resounding success with a great turnout; almost half of the engineering student cohort attended. The informal and relaxed atmosphere allowed for student interactions and for communication with faculty and staff in the ME department. Students were given details about the program implementation plans in Los Alamos and learned more broadly about the engineering profession. Dr. Irina Alvestad welcomed the participants and gave an overview of the program and future plans.

ME faculty, Drs. Mario Velardi and Nima Fathi shared brief overviews of program objectives and broad examples of what students should expect in engineering classes and labs. In particular, they demonstrated SolidWorks, the software used in intro engineering design courses,

and sample lab apparatus and tools acquired for the BSME program. These examples practically illustrated how engineers apply mathematics, physics, chemistry, and other sciences, together with computers, instrumentation, and other tools to create a wide range of hardware, software, and systems. In the Mechanical Engineering undergraduate program, under the guidance of dedicated and experienced faculty, students will have the opportunity to work on energy and transportation projects ranging from racecars to high altitude balloon launches and from building efficiency to alternative energy systems.

Congratulations Min!

We extend sincere congratulations to Dr. Min Ro, Lecturer III of Mathematics, who was selected as the recipient of the 2022 Faculty Excellence Award. This recognition is well-deserved.



Scientists investigate that which already is; Engineers create that which has never been.

~ Albert Einstein



SCIENCES DIVISION

The Science Division announces that Teaching Lab Technician Laura Reyes Haro is resigning effective April 22. Laura has served at UNMLA since July 2021. In that time, she was instrumental in the success of two special projects: upgrading our hazardous waste protocols and carrying out a full inventory and reorganization of

the physics/earth science lab. In addition, she faithfully managed the student labs, including preparation of lab materials, ordering supplies, and processing hazardous waste. We appreciate all that Laura has accomplished in her time on campus and wish her all the best as she moves to Canada to take a position as a post-doctoral research associate.

The Science Division has planned two Student Cohort meetings for students registering for summer and fall classes. Students in the Science and Pre-Professional Health Sciences degree programs will meet with advisors and division faculty on April 27 from 2-4pm. Students in the Computer Science and Information Technology degree programs will meet with advisors and faculty on April 20 from 2-4pm. Academic advisors will answer questions, give registration advice, and lift advisement holds; faculty will share wisdom about career paths and industry needs and how to become more competitive for the job market while in school.

Steve Dawald announced that he is stepping down as Fire Science Program Coordinator and faculty member. Steve was instrumental in establishing and ensuring the success of the program over the past 11 years. He will be retiring from Los Alamos Fire Department and moving to Colorado where he has accepted a Deputy Fire Chief position.

FINE ARTS, HUMANITIES, AND SOCIAL SCIENCES DIVISION

Dr. Haewon Yang will be joining us this summer semester and is excited to bring music theory and piano back to the community; Dr. Yang has performed with the Yemel Philharmonic Society in Toronto, Canada, and the Indiana Landmarks Center. In addition to performance, Dr. Yang's doctoral research focused on the piano compositions of child composers, including the prodigious composer and pianist Emile Naoumoff. Beyond research, Dr. Yang has a heart for teaching, and hopes to empower students to realize that all have the capability to be musical, as well as the ability to be creative in expressing musicality.

Dr. Bruno Bagnon will be joining us, and is pleased to work with all our students in Psychology; Dr. Bagnon's work centers on Educational Foundations

(Educational Thought and Sociocultural Issues) and Psychological Anthropology. Dr. Bagnon is a passionate educator, and his exuberance for the classroom is felt by his students (and anyone who talks with him!); he has been nominated for the UNM Outstanding Adjunct Faculty Teaching Excellence Award, and in 2016 was the UNM Outstanding Online Teacher of the Year. He has led workshops on diversity in college settings, critical thinking in curriculum development, and learning and cognitive styles in the classroom (just to name a few) and has designed and taught a plethora of courses in both Psychology and Anthropology

We are so privileged, and excited, to have these amazing educators joining us here at UNM-LA, and to see the opportunities they provide for our students and our community!





STUDENT LEARNING AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Our Advisory Board has asked us to begin sharing information regarding student success with the board members on a regular basis. We'll be discussing that issue further and determining both how we define student success and the criteria we will use in our reporting, but please know that student success is on the radar as you work to assess and revise your courses according to best practices and new pedagogical techniques designed to address the unique learning challenges of traditionally underserved groups.

Many of you may have heard the call for participants in the Student Experience Project-and we here in the assessment team want to help get the word out! This is a great program to help you integrate real best-practices into your courses: they will help you assess what needs you have, and the best ways to ensure your

courses are responsive to your student's needs! If you would like to know more, please look at their website. Sign up for the CoPilot Ascend program with SEP today and **BECOME A FELLOW:**

One-semester commitment, with monthly meetings with a community of fellows

- \$1000 stipend
- Two summer workshops and some asynchronous online training

Use evidence-based interventions to improve retention, equity, and academic outcomes in your classes.

- Setting the Tone for an Inclusive Classroom
- Sustaining a Supportive Classroom Environment
- Improving Social Belonging and Mindset Foundations

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If you have not submitted your artefacts for the General Education Assessment cycle, please do remember the deadline is fast approaching (May 15!) and that Peninah Wolpo is your local contact for help with the process.

(peninah@unm.edu) Please do keep an eye out for a check-in email from her, if you have not submitted artefacts as of 4/15/2022. If you would like help, or just to update Peninah about your status in the process, she is available via Zoom, by appointment, and also on campus on Mondays and Wednesdays in 623F!

Revised Syllabus Template

The revised syllabus template is now available online at the link below. Please start remember to use this template for your Summer 2022 class syllabi.

<http://losalamos.unm.edu/academics/online-learning/faculty/course-syllabus-template-update-11-21-1.docx>



Continuous improvement is better than delayed perfection.

~ Mark Twain

REMOTE LEARNING CORNER

Canvas Update

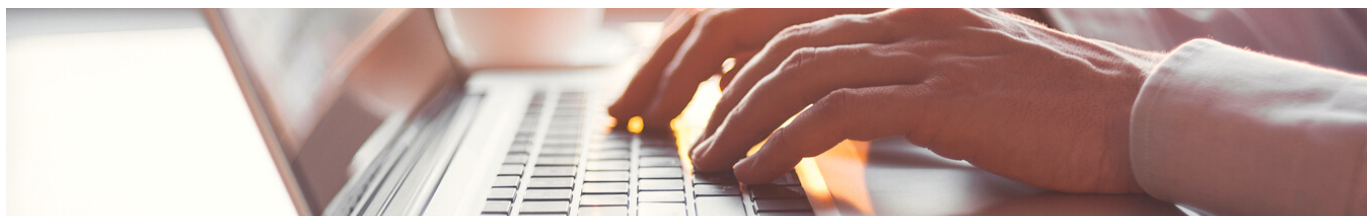
Canvas, the new Learning Management System (LMS), will become operational for Summer semester.

- Blackboard (Bb) Learn Summer 2021 and Fall 2021 content have been migrated to Canvas. Click on “Courses” in the global navigation menu in Canvas, and the click “All Courses” to find them.
 - You can request that a Learn course from a different semester be imported by using the request form provided here:
https://forms.unm.edu/forms/migration_request_form
 - Bb migrated content will be read-only, but it is accessible and moveable to a Canvas course. Remember, some cleanup for migrated content will be required.
 - A migrated content cleanup checklist is available here:
<https://canvasinfo.unm.edu/move-to-canvas/migration-cleanup.html>
- This month, Summer 2022 and Fall 2022 Banner courses will be available in Canvas.
- Access to Bb Learn ENDS
 - Students: mid-June 2022
 - Faculty: (Summer 2023—exact date TBD)

We are offering three in-person training sessions/workshops on the new LMS on April 22, April 25, and April 28, all from 12-2pm in 628. Please see the invitations sent to you from Linda Barril.

Unfortunately, due to unforeseen events, we have lost the help of Linda Barril from our instructional technology team just before we are to transition. Cindy Budge will continue to provide you all with assistance through the end of this semester, including helping facilitate the workshops, but will be transitioning to a lighter role. We urge you all to make full use of the following resources available via the Albuquerque campus:

- [Bridge to Canvas Course](#) (1-week asynchronous course with one optional synchronous meeting. Completing the course will enable instructors to import their Bb content as well as locate, create, and manipulate content in their Canvas temporary course).
- Live Webinars and Asynchronous Courses in [Canvas's Training Services Portal](#) (there are 15-20 webinars a week available for instructors to learn the nuts and bolts of Canvas tools; the calendar rotates to accommodate different schedules)
- [Open Labs](#) (weekly drop-in sessions where an instructor can work with a CTL instructional designer)





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Other Resources

- UNM Canvas Support
 - Website: <https://canvasinfo.unm.edu/support/index.html> Info: <https://canvasinfo.unm.edu/>
 - Email: canvas@unm.edu
- UNM Branch Online Collaborative
 - IT from our UNM branch campuses are working together to offer free online trainings about Canvas. Please visit our UNM LA Teaching Online Resource page (<https://losalamos.unm.edu/academics/online-learning/faculty/index.html>) and look under "Free Professional Development" for details.
- UNM-LA
 - Cindy, Linda and the eLearning Committee have completed the UNM LA Canvas course template for faculty; it is now available on Canvas Commons. Here's how to import the template into your Canvas course: <https://community.canvaslms.com/t/5/Canvas-Commons/How-do-I-import-and-view-a-Commons-resource-in-Canvas/ta-p/1808>
- In the meantime, we are endeavoring to obtain additional support, both via in-person and remote technologies.

LIBRARY/LEARNING RESOURCE CENTER

We're getting closer! While we await the delivery and installation of the last of the new furnishings for the library, the move back to the library has begun. Much of the shelving that is being reused has been reinstalled. The books have been returned to the library from storage, and library staff have begun unpacking and returning the Southwest Collection books to their cabinets in the loft.

With term papers and projects coming due and final exams right around the corner, please continue to encourage your students to make use of our services and resources.



ADULT EDUCATION/COLLEGE & CAREER READINESS

In July of this year, Dr. Jane Clements, our Director of Adult Education will be stepping down to take on new challenges elsewhere. Jane has served in this capacity first as an interim, then as a permanent Director since 2019. Jane's efforts have been instrumental in creating a more successful program that has immeasurably enriched many lives and served as the gateway to further opportunities for community and workforce members. She has developed new collaborations and kept the program running through the challenges of covid lockdowns, which often entailed the closure of teaching locations throughout our region. Jane's work has been invaluable, and the loss of her expertise will leave a big hole.

We will be seeking a new director soon, whom we hope can serve for a short time alongside of Jane to complete the transition.

On a happier note, the new initiative Jane began as a collaborative effort with Mesa

Public Library to provide child enrichment activities so that adult learners can take AE English classes while their children are participating in activities led by other community partners, has proven a big success and we expect to continue these efforts moving forward.

The adult education program will end the year with 58 students having benefitted from ESL and citizenship instruction in our program and 46 students benefitting from our work skills and high school equivalency classes. Eight students will have earned their high school equivalency credential and we look forward to celebrating with them at graduation. Another seven students are working on completing their testing requirements to earn their High School Equivalency (HSE). Classes end May 5th, and our summer session will begin May 9th.

Do what you can, with what you have, where you are.

-- Theodore Roosevelt



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

We are happy to announce that we have funds to send 3-4 continuing faculty to this year's Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) conference!

This is one of the premier conferences for Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs) and it will occur in San Diego, CA on October 8-10, 2022.

https://www.hacu.net/hacu/Annual_Conference1.asp

This is a unique and valuable opportunity and one that fulfills our academic and institutional strategic goals.

Conference participation and follow-through are expected to meet the following grant goals:

- Faculty participate in culturally relevant pedagogical professional development activities
- Faculty become more knowledgeable about best practices in learning
- Faculty participate in culturally responsive professional development activities
- Post-conference, faculty share these practices with colleagues, and apply the learning to their own teaching



Please notify your Division Chair by **April 18** if you are interested in participating in the HACU conference and an application process will be made available to you.

Final selections will be made by the Dean of Instruction in early May.



FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

Susan Schauer has announced her retirement from UNM-LA, beginning this summer. Susan claims that her years as Division Chair for Sciences have been the best - and most challenging - years of her career. She suggests that the personal growth and rewards scale with the level of challenge, and says she is eternally grateful for the opportunity to serve the campus as Division Chair (3 years), Instructional Technologist (3 years), Lecturer in Biology and Human Anatomy and Physiology (since 2007) and adjunct instructor (since 1994). Prior to her career at UNM-LA, Susan held several positions in research labs and teaching.

Thirty-odd years of teaching anatomy and physiology have introduced Susan to an incredible diversity of students, providing

constant inspiration, instructional challenges, and rewards. She claims she wouldn't change any of this for the world, as these students provided unique personal connections and prompted her to explore new approaches to teaching, leading to growth by all. At this point, Susan reports that she can hardly enter a healthcare facility in Los Alamos without meeting, and often being cared for, by one of her former students. (Not necessarily an enviable position!) Susan also credits her many colleagues for collaborating with, mentoring, and supporting her, and claims these interactions were critical to her longevity on campus.

Aside from teaching, Susan outlined several career highlights, suggesting there are many avenues for enrichment and reward beyond teaching. There were twelve years on the eLearning committee, with several years as committee Chair, being mentored by a wonderful group of colleagues, then mentoring the next generation of online instructors. This committee led the creation of the Online Template, the Online Standards, the Online Sample Course Materials website, the Teaching Online resource webpage, and the Student Online Workshop, among other resources. They made large strides in our campus capacity for remote learning. In three years as Instructional Technologist, she was grateful for the hard work, patience, and tenacity of all instructors - and especially those who pivoted online during the pandemic. She spent four rewarding years on the Faculty Professional Development committee, two as Chair, and five years on the Faculty

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Operations committee, the last four as Secretary. She served on many hiring committees and helped to mentor several new employees.

Susan is grateful to the UNM-LA Student Government, whose grants have allowed her to greatly enhance the equipment available for students in the A&P and general biology labs. Over the past ten years, her proposals allowed us to acquire several life-size human body models, a digital physiograph system, and a set of new microscopes, in addition to other items. She is grateful to Student Services for their programs that involve faculty, such as the College Days events that bring prospective students to campus to participate in fun "demonstrations" in the classrooms. These and so many other opportunities allowed Susan to engage with the community, and included the summer Children's College, Bradbury Science Museum events, and UNM Days at the state Roundhouse, among others. These will provide a wealth of memories of contributions made, that were enabled by association with UNM-LA.

While Susan's dedication to UNM-LA and its success will be sorely missed, I'm sure you all join us in wishing her the best of luck in her next stage.

