

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS BULLETIN

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



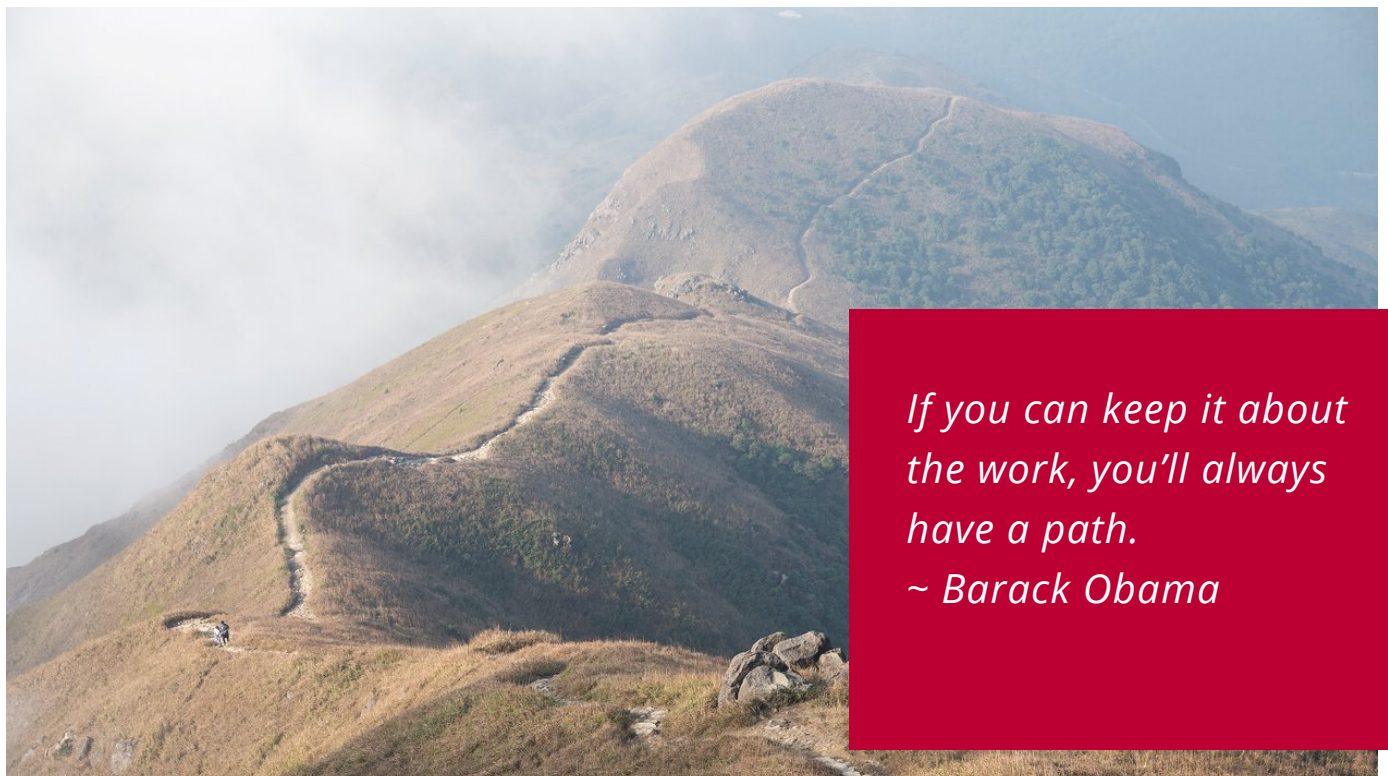
WELCOME!

Hello! Welcome to the inaugural issue of the Office of Instruction newsletter. To contain the multitude of UNM - Los Alamos emails that you all receive, we will try instead, once a month, to send out this newsletter that will contain important announcements, information about activities and professional development opportunities, resources, faculty spotlights, etc. in a digestible format, from across Academic Affairs, including our office, the academic divisions, the Learning Resource Center & Library, the Remote Learning Coordinator, and the Adult Education department.

DEAN'S MESSAGE

I've now been in this role as UNM-LA's chief academic officer for five months and I've learned quickly what excellent and dedicated faculty we have here. In these short months I have seen individuals step up in numerous ways, from manning booths at fairs, to engaging in additional service, to going the extra mile to mentor students, and to creating innovative ways to improve the educational opportunities available to our students. One new faculty member even cleaned up two years' worth of detritus to make a studio functional for us again. It's made me proud to see faculty who, because of life circumstances could easily just step away, instead remain to help us to achieve our mission as a gateway to opportunity.

While we've seen a lot of turnover this year, we continue to move forward with establishing a strong new team. And we have much work ahead of us in the remainder of the academic year, from establishing Guided Pathways for students, to revamping our website, to renegotiating our MOU with Los Alamos High School, to revising the Faculty Handbook to bring it into alignment with the new Collective Bargaining Agreement, to beefing up our pedagogy skills for aiding New Majority Students at our college. I look forward to working with you all on these efforts and more! – Paul



*If you can keep it about
the work, you'll always
have a path.
~ Barack Obama*



OFFICE OF INSTRUCTION

As most of you know, the Office of Instruction was delivered a major blow last month with the departure of Kateri Morris, who had done so much to keep all things related to instruction running smoothly. Coming after some eighteen months that saw the closure of the in-person office, it has meant that service and support are currently not where we expect them to be, for students, for faculty, or for other groups on and off campus. The office currently remains unstaffed, although the Dean is present Monday – Thursday should anyone need assistance.

- The Assistant to the Dean posting closed on Friday, Nov. 5 (Guy Fawkes Day!). We will shortly begin interviews and hope we can have a new person in the office before the end of the semester.
- Registration for Spring 2022 opened on Monday, November 8. Help us recruit and retain students! Please announce in your classes and encourage your students to sign up for classes early

- We are beginning to plan the Final Exam Study Nights activities to provide extra assistance and a supportive atmosphere for your students who might need a little help or encouragement. Stay tuned!
- The Final Exam Schedule will be coming out soon.

Annual Mandatory Training Reminder: deadline December 1 (for most of you)

Please remember to complete the following required modules available through Learning Central

<https://learningcentral.unm.edu/>

- Sexual Harassment Training (approx. 1 hour)
- Basic Annual Safety Training (approx. 30 min.)
- Active Shooter Training (approx. 30 min.)
- Privacy & Security Awareness

Upcoming Dates:

- December 10 – Last day of Instruction
- December 13-17 – Final Exam Week
- December 24 through January 2 – campus closed for Winter Break
- January 17 – Spring Classes Begin

SCIENCE DIVISION

Hello, I'm the Science Division Chair, Susan Schauer. You can find me in room 623B, where I always welcome visits and email (sschauer@unm.edu) from faculty, staff and students. The Science Division is responsible for degree programs in science, health science, environmental science, computer science, information technology, emergency services and fire science. Science classes form part of the general education core, as well as pathways to specific degrees.

Students in our science programs participate in a curriculum that includes hands-on science labs, field trips, and clinical experiences.

- Science labs are supported by our lab coordinator, Dr. Laura Reyes, who joined us this summer. Please join me in welcoming her to our campus.
- Also this summer, Geology instructor Pete Worland set up a museum-quality display of rocks and minerals in Building 5, which we invite all to visit.



*No man should escape our universities without knowing how little he knows.
~ J. Robert Oppenheimer
[excuse his gendered language]*



MATHEMATICS AND ENGINEERING DIVISION

- Dr. Min Ro has joined the group of UNM-Los Alamos faculty who teach 300-level courses. This fall, he teaches MATH 316 Applied Ordinary Differential Equations, a course required by many BS programs in STEM disciplines.
- This fall, we offer two ME upper-level courses in the BSME curriculum on campus: ME 318L Mechanical Engineering Lab and ME 301 Thermodynamics. These courses support our commitment to provide program access to Los Alamos area individuals (including LANL employees.)
- Dr. Nima Fathi joined the engineering instructional team this fall, teaching upper-level mechanical engineering courses in the BSME program. He is Research Assistant Professor in the UNM Department of Mechanical Engineering and also serves as UNM-LA Technical Facilitator assisting Dr. Mario Velardi with engineering equipment procurement and set up of laboratories on our campus.



*I am always at the beginning.
~ the Buddha*

FINE ARTS, HUMANITIES, AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

- The Division has been renamed from the clunky, “English, Humanities, General Studies, Fine Arts Division”
- Dr. Peninah Wolpo, a lecturer in Humanities, has been selected as the new Chair. Her term began on November 1. Peninah can be reached at 505-662-0348.
- Peninah is also our college’s Assessment Coordinator, and so will be reaching out to many of you to ask you to gather required assessment data. Please respond to her queries in a timely manner.

APPLIED DISCIPLINES

- In August we created a new Division of Applied Disciplines consisting of Applied Sciences, Business, and Communications.
- Sarah Fisher, a lecturer in Environmental Science, was selected as the new Chair. Sarah can be reached at 505 662-0342.

REMOTE LEARNING CORNER

Over the summer, the Instructional Technologist was recast as a Remote Learning Coordinator, with responsibilities over such things as: identifying and prioritizing distance education needs; developing, revising, and adopting policies and procedures related to distance education; ensuring that UNM-LA

Standards for Online Teaching and the Learn Online Template are updated as needed and used to design online and hybrid courses; assisting instructors to design effective and engaging online course delivery methods*; coordinating professional development and training activities that promote faculty expertise in remote instruction; and serving as QM Coordinator for the campus. Cindy Budge was selected as the new Remote Learning Coordinator and can be reached at 505-662-5919. Please do not hesitate to contact her with your questions related to Remote Learning.

*FYI: Cindy will soon be conducting online course observations.

*There's distance
between us/And
you're on my mind.
~ Fleetwood Mac*

Regular and Substantive Interaction (RASI) Reminder

Substantive interaction in online or hybrid learning environments means engaging students in teaching, learning and assessment consistent with the course content in at least two of the following activities **totaling at least 50-60 minutes every week** for a 3-credit hour course:

- Attending a synchronous class, lecture, recitation, field activity or laboratory activity physically or online (where there is an opportunity for interaction between the instructor and students);
- Submitting an academic assignment or taking an assessment;
- Participating in an interactive tutorial, webinar, or other interactive computer-assisted instruction;
- Participating in a study group, group project, or a required discussion forum activity; and/or
- Interacting with the instructor about academic matters.

Thank you so much for all your efforts to deliver high-quality instruction to our UNM LA students!

As a reminder, the migration from Blackboard Learn to Canvas has been rescheduled. Please stay tuned for further details.





LIBRARY/LEARNING RESOURCE CENTER

The library renovation is nearing completion! Construction is expected to be completed by the end of November. Once furnishings arrive (estimated January), staff will be moving back into the space and preparing to reopen. An official reopening date will be announced at the appropriate time.

In the meantime, please continue to take advantage of the online books, articles, and other resources that are available through the databases we offer, and please encourage your students to take advantage of them as well.

Also, don't forget about interlibrary loan. We are setup to borrow print books from other libraries, including books that are in our print collection, which are currently inaccessible. This is a free service for UNM-LA students, faculty, and staff.

Library Hours:

Monday – Thursday: 8 am to 6 pm

Friday: 8 am to 4 pm

ADULT EDUCATION

- Adult Basic Education has evolved in recent years and no longer uses “Basic” in its title.
- Adult Education, run by Dr. Jane Clements, educates students from all walks of life in College and Career Readiness classes, including high school equivalency, work skills, English as a Second Language, family literacy, and Citizenship.
- This work is often difficult and underappreciated, but is essential for giving people opportunities to better their lives, and for getting them on the road to successful work and education pathways.

In coming years, we expect to see them as an integral part in our new Guided Pathways for students.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Professional Development Opportunities Through the UNM Branch Online Collaborative

The UNM Branch Online Collaborative is offering free 30–45-minute trainings via Zoom on the following Mondays at 2 pm:

- 11/15: Respondus 4.0 (Creating tests/quizzes/assignments for upload into UNM Learn)
- 11/29: Using One Drive
- 12/6: Using Word like a Pro (Accessible Documents/Ally)

Pre-registration is not required. All UNM branch faculty can participate. We hope you will join us!





FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

Dr. Michael McNaughton, who retired this past summer, was recently granted Emeritus status by the University of New Mexico.

Dr. McNaughton served UNM-Los Alamos as an adjunct Lecturer from 1987 to 1994. He served as continuing faculty Lecturer III from 1994 to 2021. He has remained as an adjunct instructor after retiring because of his dedication to UNM-LA students and the Physics program. He received his PhD in Nuclear Physics from the University of London in 1972. He taught at the University of California and Case Western Reserve before joining Los Alamos National

Laboratory as a Research and Design Scientist in 1978. He is a fellow of the American Physical Society and a Certified Health Physicist. Since beginning teaching with UNM-Los Alamos in 1987, he has taught all of the physics lecture and lab classes offered on this campus during his tenure and played a large role in designing the physics lab. Over the years, he has served on our Curriculum, Recruitment, Diversity, and Faculty Professional Development committees and many faculty and staff search committees. Dr. McNaughton has served as a mentor to hundreds of students over the last thirty-four years and been an example and role model for his colleagues. Please join us in congratulating Mike for this honor!