
SEPTEMBER 2022 | VOLUME 2 ISSUE NO. 1

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS BULLETIN

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



NM
LOS ALAMOS

DEAN'S MESSAGE

Welcome back!

We're off to a great start this semester, with enrollments up over 13%! (rumor today says 20%!; still unconfirmed, but we're attributing it to RETENTION!). We're doing better than most of our sister institutions in the UNM system and even better than most community colleges are doing nationally. I thank you for all your efforts devoted to making your courses more enticing and relevant to student interests, for your unwavering support of those students, and your efforts at retention. Kudos!

We are beginning to refill our ranks and this summer saw new faces across the college and it's been such a pleasure to see so much energy on campus again.

Our new Office of Instruction colleagues, Naly Ramirez and Audrey Marroquin have detailed profiles below, but here I'd just like to say: Welcome to the Team! We'll also soon begin searches for faculty replacement positions which were authorized for UNM-LA this past month. Please keep an eye out for the postings.

New curriculum processes (Kuali) begin this month, so please work with your Division Chairs on any new courses or changes to existing courses as they will have the latest information.

Thanks for all you do!

- Paul



Only the educated are free.

~ Epictetus



OFFICE OF INSTRUCTION

We've made good headway toward hiring over the summer months and you'll see a few new faces around campus. Naly Ramirez Apunte joins us as the new Adult Education/Career and College Readiness program manager. She brings experience as a long-time educator (ESL) as well as business owner, and will be carrying on the terrific work of the departing manager, Jane Clements.

In her new role, Naly will be working closely with our other new addition to the team, Audrey Marroquin, who joins us as the new Educational Partnerships and Academic Support Planning Officer. Audrey's role will be to coordinate the integration of our Career and College Readiness program, our workforce

partnerships, and our student support services toward the creation of seamless pipelines for a sizable portion of our student body. Audrey has degrees in Mechanical Engineering as well as a wealth of experience in program development and student support.

Please give a warm welcome to both of these talented and enthusiastic professionals, both of whom have offices in the lower level of building seven (the Learning Resource Center/Library). Stop in to say hello when you get the chance!

We are beginning the first stages of our searches for faculty replacements lost this past year. Stay tuned!

Important Dates

- **October 7-11:** HACU Conference
- **October 13, 14:** Fall Break; no classes, campus open
- **October 17:** Start of second half of semester classes
- **November 24-25:** Thanksgiving Holiday; no classes, campus closed
- **December 1:** Mandatory UNM Annual Training Deadline
- **December 12-16:** Final Exam Week
- **December 22:** LoboWeb Grade Entry Deadline: 5 pm
- **December 23—January 2:** Winter Break; no classes, campus closed

ACADEMIC DIVISIONS



MATH, ENGINEERING, & COMPUTER SCIENCE DIVISION

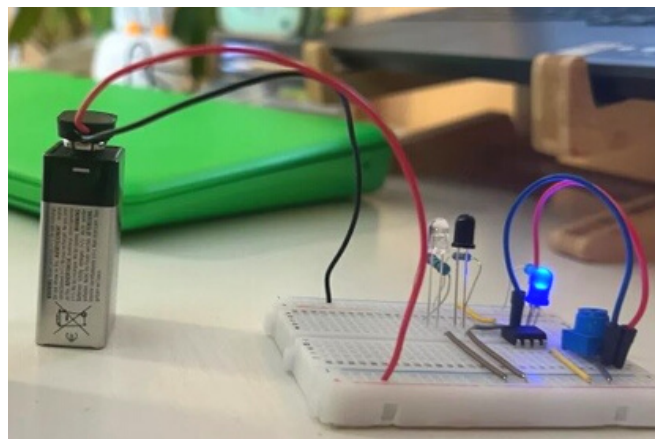
Welcome back to all faculty! After a wonderfully wet summer, it's good to return to campus and resume our usual academic activities. Since the end of the spring 2022 semester, faculty in the Division of Mathematics, Engineering, and CS have taken some time off, but they also engaged in activities that promote our campus and that help them grow professionally.

UNM-LA promotes the education and growth of New Mexicans in many ways beyond the programs we offer on our campus. In June Drs. Joan Lucas and Nicole Lloyd-Ronning volunteered as part of the 2022 Summer Physics Camp for Young Women in New Mexico

(<https://sites.google.com/view/2022-summer-physics-camp/home>)

This two-week camp was sponsored by LANL, Sandia, and a host of other science and technology organizations in NM and offered unique opportunities for young women in high school to explore careers in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). Participants were given resources to help them advance their understanding of how STEM improves the world around us through activities, speakers, virtual tours, and hands-on projects.

Students at the camp studied principles of physics, engineering, bioengineering and computer programming, applying their knowledge in a range of exciting projects. They also learned about different energy sources, including nuclear power, to better understand the challenges faced by our modern society. Reaching beyond engaging science, participants found out how to successfully write a resume and interview for a job, as well as explore the internship opportunities available at local colleges, universities and national laboratories.





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Dr. Joan Lucas, UNM-LA Computer Science faculty, directed an activity where the participants learned how to wire various components (lights, buttons, etc.) onto a circuit board, and then write C++ code to control the behavior of those components. This activity led to a larger project where they constructed and programmed a Robotic Hand. Great fun was had by all!

Dr. Nicole Lloyd-Ronning, UNM-LA Physics faculty, presented an exciting talk about black holes. Please read about her involvement with this group in the Science section of this issue.

Meanwhile, starting this fall, Dr. Min Ro became a full time faculty in mathematics. In addition to an increased teaching responsibility, Min will also begin developing ideas to establish a possible educational research program at our campus.

To get started, he attended the NSF workshop Community Colleges: Bringing Research Opportunities to Students and Creating Sustainable Pathways. Presented by two veteran educators, the workshop provided ideas on how community college faculty can bring research opportunities to students, the preliminary work necessary to establish undergraduate research across campus and disciplines, implementation of programs, barriers to success, lessons learned, and early successes. Min already started exploring a couple of ideas and we will share more about his plans once they are better defined.

In the engineering department, we continue to see enrollment growth in the pre-engineering program, providing a more robust pipeline of students preparing for transfer to 4-year programs including the BSME program through UNM. At our campus this fall, in addition to courses in the pre-engineering curriculum, we also offer two courses in the BSME curriculum: ME301 Thermodynamics taught by Dr. Mario Velardi and ME318L Mechanical Engineering Laboratory taught by Dr. Nima Fathi. We are delighted that Mario's Joint Faculty Appointment with LANL has been extended for another year allowing him the opportunity to continue to teach.

Following the expert advice of Mario and Nima, we continue to equip new mechanical engineering laboratories with

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funds provided through a grant from the Los Alamos National Laboratory. In late August, with some delivery delays due to supply chain issues, we received equipment for the fluid mechanics lab. This includes a hydraulics bench, free and forced vortices, a Bernoulli Theorem demonstrator, a Venturi flow measurement module, a stability of floating bodies demo unit, an impact of a jet module, an Osborne Reynolds apparatus and an array of other modules to support fluids experiments. We will share photos of the experimental set up in a future issue of the Bulletin.

Funding we received from LANL to develop the BSME program at our campus also includes services of a professional program evaluator to help us assess the success of

the program. For this purpose, Dr. Sharon Brisolaro was hired and her selection is intended to increase efficiencies in data collection, analysis, and reporting. She is familiar with our campus and our student demographics having served as external evaluator on two previous NSF grants and the current Title V PASE grant.

For the BSME project, Sharon Brisolaro coordinates the collection and analysis of both quantitative data to monitor and evaluate progress on selected program metrics (such as enrollment, course success rates, fall to fall persistence, and degree completion) as well as qualitative data to better understand context, program dynamics, participant experiences, program reviews, barriers, and resources, and unintended benefits and consequences. Quantitative data collection methods include individual, faculty (assignment, loads), course and program level institutional data, and post-graduation employment data. This August, as part of her work on this grant, Sharon conducted a focus group with engineering students and also lead a faculty discussion about academic support systems faculty consider essential for student success, especially as related to STEM disciplines. We thank students and faculty who participated and provided insights. Her findings from these discussions will be important in shaping BSME program activities.



*No man should escape our universities without knowing how little he knows.
~ J. Robert Oppenheimer*

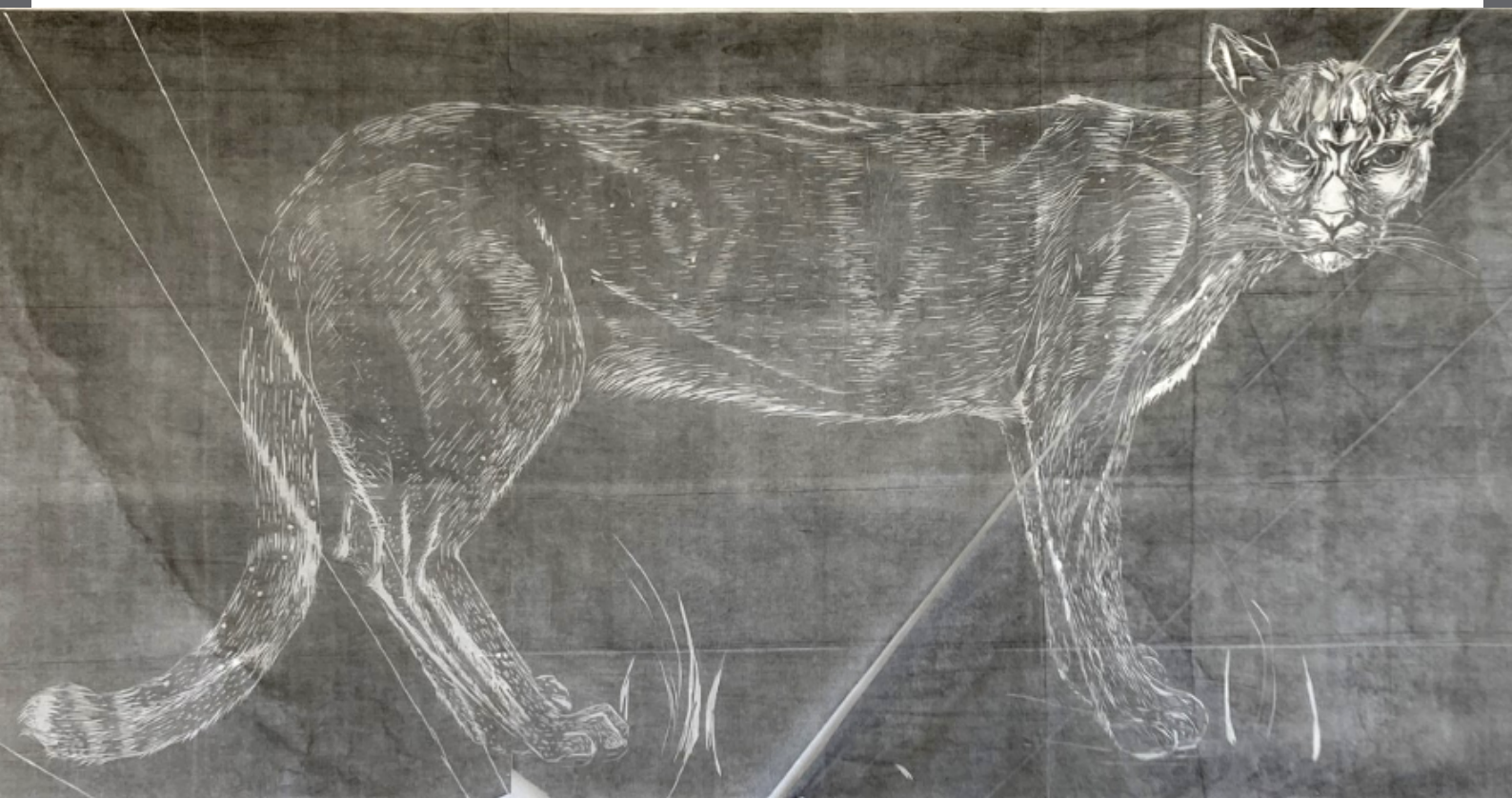
FINE ARTS, HUMANITIES, AND SOCIAL SCIENCES DIVISION

Fine Arts is pleased to welcome Krista Kashis Peters to UNM-LA! Krista has her Masters in Fine Art from Bard College, and has had her work shown in galleries in both NM and in NY. She joins us this Fall as our new instructor of Drawing, and is anticipating many other studio courses. Her work ranges from painting and drawing to woodcut and printmaking, and we are privileged to have her artistic drive and enthusiasm on our campus!

We also welcome back Dr. Renae Mitchell! Dr. Mitchell holds her Ph.D. in Comparative Literature from Pennsylvania

State University and has taught at UNM-LA Since 2013. Dr. Mitchell teaches courses here in Foreign Languages and Literature, and in Comparative Literature; in her short time away from campus, Dr. Mitchell celebrated the publication of her book, *Maternity in the Post-Apocalypse: Novelistic Re-Visions of Dystopian Motherhood*; you can get your copy at rowman.com.

Congratulations, Dr. Renae Mitchell, on an exciting publication, and welcome back to UNM-LA! It is a privilege to have you return!



Krista Kashis Peters, *Untitled*: Large format woodcut on handmade paper from Nepal, 2022.

SCIENCE AND APPLIED STUDIES DIVISION

We are pleased to welcome a number of new faculty members to the Science and Applied Studies Division this semester:

Lorraine Bowman—teaching Intro. Astronomy and Intro. Astronomy lab

Elisa DiMenna—teaching two sections of Human Anatomy and Physiology, plus the lab.

Josh Winkel—teaching Fire Prevention

Ron Sapcutt—teaching Basic Welding

Rosa Lopez—teaching Nutrition for Health

Welcome to everybody, and thank you for teaching at UNM-LA!

We wish farewell to Susan Schauer, who retired on July 1 after many years of dedicated service to the University. Sarah Fisher is the new Division Chair for Science and Applied Studies.

Over the Summer:

ScienceFest (mid-July) was once again a great success. The UNM-LA interactive geology exhibition was organized and presented by Pete Worland, professor of geology, and Sarah Fisher, professor of environmental sciences. Mario Velardi (professor of engineering) also assisted with the presentation; Melissa Torres was on hand to disseminate information about enrolling in UNM-LA to all interested parties.

Dr. Nicole Ronning (professor of physics) volunteered as part of the Summer

Physics Camp for Young Women in New Mexico. This two-week camp for offers a unique opportunity for young women in high school to explore careers in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). Dr. Ronning presented an exciting talk about the scale of our universe and answered questions about black holes. Camp-goers learned about the different ways that astronomers measure distances in our universe, from the relatively nearby planets to the farthest galaxies assembling in early universe. The girls calculated the distance to Mars and did parallax measurements of objects in their own rooms.

LANL recruiting in the Robotics program:

Representatives from LANL will be attending the upper-level robotics courses on Sept. 12-13 to encourage students to bring their robotics skills to a career at LANL, and to counsel the students through the application process.





LIBRARY/LEARNING RESOURCE CENTER

THE LIBRARY IS OPEN!

We're still working on the finishing touches, but library operations have been moved to the newly renovated space. Go check it out if you haven't seen it yet!

Long-time Library director Dennis Davies-Wilson retired over the summer, but Joe Matthews, in his new role as

Library Operations Manager, and Alyssa Stubbs are here to provide all our library services including physical resources, interlibrary loan, information literacy instruction, and course reserves. As always, our electronic resources are available for students, faculty, and staff to access on-campus and remotely. We hope you'll stop by to "check" out the new space and keep an eye out for our grand reopening!

ADULT EDUCATION/COLLEGE & CAREER READINESS

As we finish up the semester, we have students working on earning their High School Equivalency Credential and moving into the workforce. Students have benefited in their job searches from online presentations from the Career and Business Consultant at the New Mexico Workforce Connections, and we hope to continue these interactions in person during the spring semester.

A new initiative is a collaborative effort with Mesa Public Library and the Art

Center at Fuller Lodge to provide child enrichment activities for English language learners so that adult learners can take English classes with the AE College and Career Readiness instructors while their children are participating in activities led by other community partners. These classes are slated to begin in January 2022 at the Mesa Public Library.



*Do what you can, with what you have, where you are.
~ Theodore Roosevelt*



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My name is Naly Ramirez and I am the new Program Manager for the Program and I am so excited to be here. I have been part of this program as an ESL teacher for 5 years and now have the wonderful opportunity to lead it. This program is dear to me because when I moved to the United States, I was an English as a Second Language student and I know how important it is to have a center that offers ESL and HSE classes to people from different backgrounds. For that reason, I am committed to making this program a success and to promote it in our community and the surrounding

areas. I am looking forward to helping students succeed in our program and reach their goals.

This Fall, our classes started on August 22nd and we are happy to start our in-person and online classes with more than 45 students. The Adult Education Program has hired a new ESL teacher who will be teaching in-person classes at the UNM LA campus. In addition to the new ESL teacher, we have also had the opportunity to hire a new HSE teacher who will be working with our partners in Jemez Pueblo. We will continue promoting our program throughout the community and the surrounding areas. We are very excited to be back in Building 7 where we are putting together an area that will include books, games, and other resources for our students to use throughout the semester to help assure their success in our programs. This space will be a great place for our English as a Second Language students to immerse themselves in the English language outside the classroom, as well as any other student who needs a comfortable and quiet place to study or take a break. Our new program manager is looking forward to attracting new students who will benefit from our ESL classes, HSE classes, and Citizenship classes. Our last day of classes for the Fall semester will be on December 16th, 2022.