New Mexico State University
All About Discovery!
nmsu.edu

Inside the
# College of Arts & Sciences
Spring 2018



## Construction begins for new art building Devasthali Hall





## Also inside:


-The 14th-annual J. Paul Taylor Social Justice Symposium focuses beyond walls, borders
-3rd-annual Las Cruces International Film Festival
-Community leaders honored

# Letter from the Dean



Dear Friends and Colleagues,
Our cover story this spring spotlights a renaissance for art in the College of Arts and Sciences with the construction of Devasthali Hall. The new building, which will house both the Department of Art and University Art Museum is named for Ammu and Rama Devasthali, whose support and leadership have been critical in uniting the university and community behind this effort. A large crowd turned out to celebrate with us as we broke ground on the new facility, which is scheduled to open its doors in fall 2019. The facility is the result of a true team effort, which involved faculty, students, staff and the entire Las Cruces community.

We also celebrated our fifth "A Starry Night" fundraiser this spring, honoring our business and community leaders for their contributions to the college. For those of you who couldn't join us, the evening included entertainment from our students, videos of our honorees and warm words of appreciation for prominent alumni and community leaders Don Cleveland, NMSU alumnus and field leading researcher in neurodegenerative diseases; John R. Schutz, NMSU alumnus and Coordinator for Visual and Performing Arts for the Las Cruces Public Schools; and local business leaders Mickey and Jan Clute. This year the proceeds of the event will contribute to the Elizabeth Ayres Pollard Sustaining Academic Progress program.

The Sustaining Academic Progress program we started last fall is supported by the Elizabeth Ayres Pollard Endowment and has continued to grow. The program provides financial help to students who are doing well academically, but face the risk of dropping out due to financial hardship. We've had other fundraisers to add to the funds for this project. Click here for more information about the fund.

When I joined the New Mexico State University family more than 25 years ago, I was a student looking to continue my education, but instead I found a home. As a professor and now as dean, it has been a pleasure to recognize the success of our students at our annual student awards event. Our outstanding graduate at our recent commencement is Daniella Barraza, a chemistry and biochemistry student who spent the last two years as an undergraduate research assistant and who will be going on to medical school at Harvard.

We are very excited to share news about a 5-year grant with the Las Cruces office of the Bureau of Land Management in which an interdisciplinary team of faculty and students in four departments – anthropology, geological sciences, biology and geography – are working together to study and collect data about the resources in the Organ Mountains –Desert Peaks National Monument.

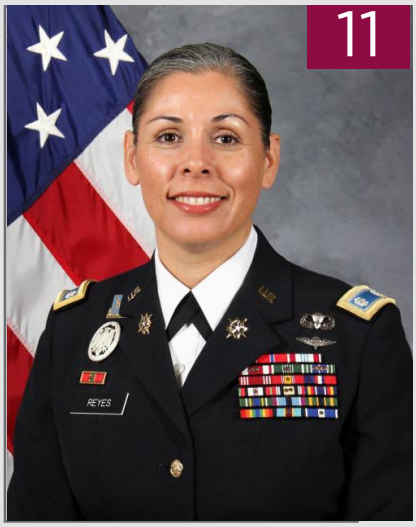
Finally, I would like to praise and say farewell to the leaders of our Reserve Officer Training Corps programs – Lt. Col Blanca Reyes and Lt. Col Jeremy Klomp. The commander of NMSU's Army ROTC Lt. Col. Blanca Reyes was recently named the Professor of Military Science of the year for U.S. Cadet Command. Lt. Col. Reyes has been an inspirational member of our team who has done an outstanding job of recruitment. However, she is being promoted to Brigade Executive Officer at the 5th Brigade Senior Army ROTC in San Antonio. Lt. Col. Jeremiah Klomp, NMSU Air Force ROTC commander and professor of aerospace studies retired on May 4 with a ceremony at Young Hall. We congratulate them both and wish them well in their future endeavors, but we are sorry to see them go.

We want to remain part of your life after graduation. You can stay connected through our Facebook page, our Instagram account, or find out about the latest events and read articles about the college on our website. We are always pleased to hear from you so let us know what you think.

Enrico Pontelli
Dean of the College of Arts and Science

# The College of Arts and Sciences










**Dean**
Enrico Pontelli

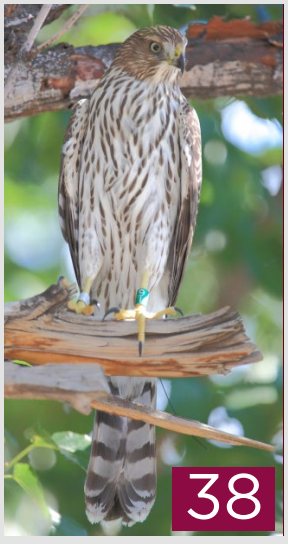
**Associate Deans**
Beth Pollack,
Jim Murphy

**Supervising Editor**
Minerva Baumann

**Editor**
Billy Huntsman

**Photography**
Andres Leighton
Darren Phillips






# Devasth

## Construction underway, ex



Ammu and Rama Devasthali. (Photo by Wendy Ewing)




Architectural rendering of Devasthali Hall. (Courtesy RMKM Architecture)

# ali Hall:
# xpected to open Fall 2019

By Minerva Baumann



NMSU Chancellor Garrey Carruthers (center) with Ammu and Rama Devasthali to his left break ground in March on the new arts facility that bears their name. Devasthali Hall is expected to be completed by fall 2019. (Photo by Andres Leighton)

New Mexico State University and partners broke ground on a new visual arts building and gallery March 27. NMSU's Board of Regents voted earlier in March to name the building Devasthali Hall in honor of Ammu and Rama Devasthali, who have championed the project for several years.

"Rama and I are deeply appreciative of the honor that Chancellor Carruthers and the university have bestowed on us by naming the soon-to-be-constructed art building Devasthali Hall," Ammu Devasthali said. "It seems almost unbelievable that this building is actually going from being an ambitious dream to reality.

"Thanks to the Chancellor, the NMSU Foundation, the art faculty, students, alumni and our community for believing in this vision. It took all of our efforts and financial backing, and in the end, this facility will be well worth it. Our students deserve nothing less."

The duo immigrated to the U.S. several years ago with minimal financial means but worked tirelessly to achieve their professional success, allowing them to give back to the community that provided so much for them. Devasthali Hall is one of few buildings on campus that is not in honor or memory of a campus administrator, but instead in recognition of community leaders who embody NMSU's diverse student population and passion for the arts.

"This project would not have been possible without the help of Ammu and Rama Devasthali," NMSU System Chancellor Garrey Carruthers said. "They were instrumental in demonstrating NMSU's need for a new art facility. They also helped in raising private donations for the project and promoted the General Obligation Bond with voters."

Read more

# Film festival honors Irene Oliver Lewis with Home Town Hero Award



Irene Oliver Lewis (Courtesy Photo)

Throughout her career in theater arts, Irene Oliver Lewis has felt both her roots and her wings. After graduating from New Mexico State University, she participated in numerous theater productions throughout New Mexico and the U.S. More than 20 years and many accolades later, she came home to Las Cruces to give back to the community. Lewis received the Home Town Hero Award during the 2018 Las Cruces International Film Festival presented by New Mexico State University, which runs March 7-11.

"Irene has given her energy, her talent for organizing and her love of the theater to communities across the country," said film festival executive director Ross Marks, who is also an associate professor at NMSU's Creative Media Institute. "And she came home to Las Cruces to keep giving. We can't think of a a more deserving person to receive the Home Town Hero Award."

Read more

# NMSU chemistry alumna gives talk about using lasers to study materials

By Billy Huntsman



Heather Whitley i (Courtesy Photo)

Heather D. Whitley, alumna of New Mexico State University's Chemistry Department, gave a talk about how scientists use lasers to study materials on Tuesday, March 27.

During Whitley's visit, she spent time with students and faculty sharing her expertise as part of the College of Arts and Sciences "Alumni Connections" series.

Whitley, who grew up in Roswell and Silver City, New Mexico, received the 2011 Presidential Early Career Award in Science and Engineering.

Her research focuses on the density of various plasmas. She conducts experiments using many-body simulations to understand the properties of matter, ranging from super fluids to plasmas. She also develops new models to describe plasmas and conducts experiments to test those models.

Read more

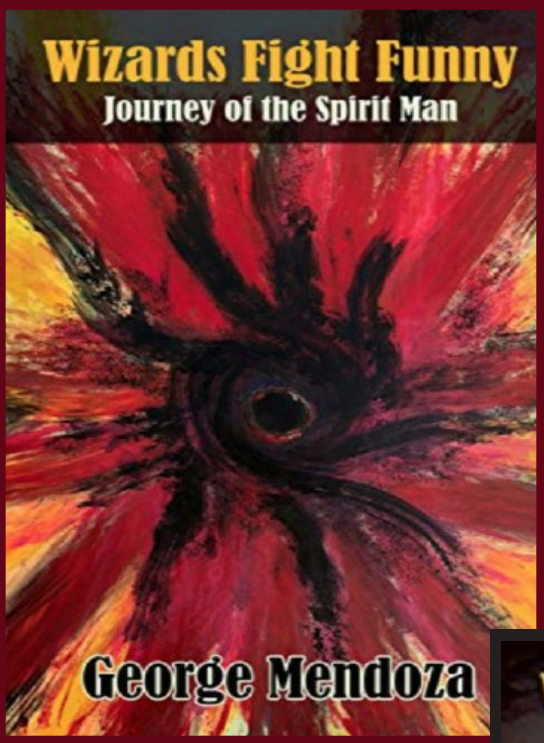
# NMSU alumnus releases fantasy trilogy based in NM

By Billy Huntsman

A New Mexico State University alumnus has released a trilogy of books with the help of students in NMSU's English Department.

George Mendoza, who graduated from NMSU in 1978 from the individualized studies department in the College of Arts and Sciences, is best known as an artist who, despite being legally blind, has painted whole exhibitions, which have been shown in New York and in a National Smithsonian Affiliates traveling art exhibit.

Previously, with the help of author Jessica Powers, Mendoza had put out "Colors of the Wind: The Story of Blind Artist and Champion Runner George Mendoza," a children's book that Mendoza illustrated. Read more

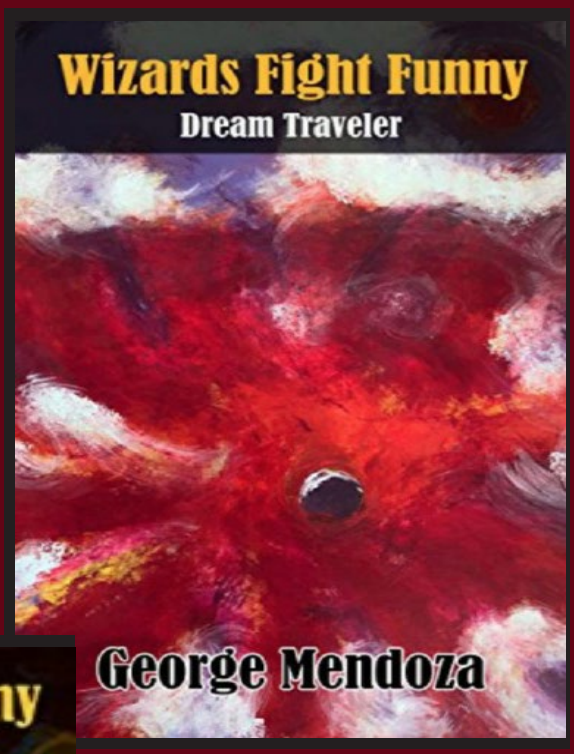



"Journey of the Spirit Man" is the first book in George Mendoza's "Wizards Fight Funny" trilogy.

The fantasy series follows a man trying to escape a mystical world and is set in New Mexico. Mendoza is a 1978 graduate of New Mexico State University.

"Dream Traveler" is the second book in George Mendoza's "Wizards Fight Funny" trilogy.

(Images courtesy George Mendoza)







"Heart of the Spirit Man" is the third book in George Mendoza's "Wizards Fight Funny" trilogy.

# NMSU students, professor create music video for gospel hip-hop star

New Mexico State University graduate Desiree Ramirez spent years in the healthcare industry as a credential coordinator. She transformed her life at NMSU, launching a career in filmmaking, and producing her first music video for a number #1 gospel hip-hop artist Emcee N.I.C.E.



Scene from Emcee N.I.C.E music "I Got Angels" in Bluff Springs, NM. (Courtesy photo)

The song "I Got Angels," inspired by Gospel Hall of Fame legend Richard Smallwood's "Angels" achieved #1 on the Billboard Hot Single Sales Chart and #1 on Billboard's Gospel Digital Song Sales chart.

"This amazing song and praise is something that all generations can get into," Ramirez said. "A reminder that God and his angels are always watching over everyone. The first time I heard this song I knew that this was something I wanted to be a part of."

Ramirez, who is from El Paso, was looking for local bands to let her produce a music video for them. A friend put her in touch with Emcee N.I.C.E., who was also raised in El Paso.

Read more

# NMSU alumna launches new makerspace

Makerspaces are a rapidly growing trend across the country. They are geared toward an active learning and collaborative way of thinking and approaching challenges. This spring a New Mexico State University alumna brought a Makerspace to life in Las Cruces. Lea Wise-Surguy, an MFA alumna in the College of Arts and Sciences and executive director of Cruces Creatives opened a new Makerspace at 205 E. Lohman.

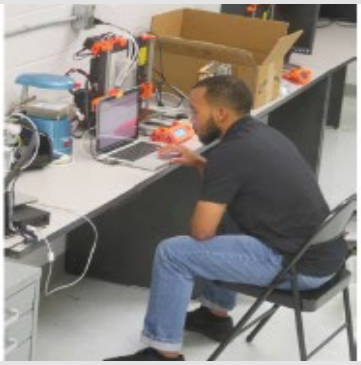


Lea Wise-Surguy. (Courtesy photo)

"Makerspaces are like gyms for tools, where members can come in to use the tools, learn skills and share in a community of making," Wise-Surguy said.

During the open house, Wise-Surguy gave informal tours of the building. The event included tool demonstrations, a disability table, drone obstacle course, door prizes and opportunities to network with local artists, crafters and entrepreneurs. The Makerspacewill provide access to tools like 3-D printers, laser cutters, CNC machines, top notch software, a wood shop, metal working tools and more.







# NMSU professor receives award for advancing scientific psychology

By Billy Huntsman

Michael Hout is an assistant professor of psychology at New Mexico State University whose research is focused on what people see, the way they see it and why.

"I'm a vision scientist," Hout said. "I study all things cognitive, mostly visual search research. Think radiologists looking for tumors or TSA agents scanning for weapons in bags, but also people looking for everyday items or search-and-rescue teams on patrol."

Hout, a faculty member in the College of Arts and Sciences and associate director of NMSU's Discovery Scholars program, received the 2017 Rising Star award from the Association for Psychological Science, a leading international organization dedicated to advancing scientific psychology across disciplinary and geographic borders. The award is presented to psychological researchers in the early stages of their careers.

Read more



New Mexico State University assistant professor of psychology Michael Hout received the Rising Star Award from the Association for Psychological Science. (NMSU photo by Darren Phillips)

# Award-winning NMSU film in Tunisian festival

New Mexico State University associate professor Ilana Lapid's short film was screened at EnviroFest-Tunisia along with award-winning documentaries "A Plastic Ocean," "Catching the Sun" and "Before the Flood," Leonardo DiCaprio's film about climate change.

"Yochi" was among seven films – five feature documentaries and two shorts - chosen to be part of EnviroFest-Tunisia, which took place May 3-5th. After the festival, the films were screened on a social-impact road show to surrounding cities.

Read more



NMSU CMI professor and director of "Yochi" Ilana Lapid (right) on the set of the film with cinematographer Robert Dugan. Dugan represented the film in Tunisia at the EcoFestival in May 2-14. (Courtesy photo)



# A&S Research Discovery Award honorees

NMSU Executive Vice President and Provost Dan Howard presents Nancy McMillan, Regents Professor and Department Head of Geological Sciences, with the Research Discovery Award during the first quarter break of the Aggie women's basketball game Dec. 10. McMillan currently has a National Science Foundation funded research project, which will examine the mineral tourmaline in ancient sediment from Antarctica to determine its origins with both laser-induced breakdown spectroscopy (LIBS) and an electron microprobe (EMP). She also has three other current research projects using LIBS analysis involving graduate students.



At the New Mexico State University men's basketball game on Saturday, Feb. 10, NMSU Chancellor Garrey Carruthers presented Tim Wright, biology professor, with the Research Discovery Award. Wright was joined by family and students at center court. Wright heads NMSU's Avian Communication and Evolution research lab, which focuses on such questions as why parrots, like humans, have developed the ability to vocalize and how their brains are wired to accomplish this task. Dr. Wright is co-author of the book "Parrots of the Wild," which explores the ecology and behavior of wild parrots.



At the New Mexico State University men's basketball game on Thursday, Feb. 8, NMSU Provost and Executive Vice President Dan Howard presented Stefan Zollner, Department Head of physics, with the Research Discovery Award. Zollner, who was joined on at center court by several of his students, heads the Ellipsometry group at NMSU. Last summer, he was named a fellow of a prestigious interdisciplinary applied science organization, the American Vacuum Society, for his outstanding scientific and technical contributions over the last 10 years.

# NMSU Army ROTC commander named Military Science Professor of the Year



Lt. Col. Blanca Reyes (Courtesy photo)

When Lt. Col. Blanca Reyes arrived at New Mexico State University nearly two years ago, she became the university's first female and first Hispanic professor of military science. Recently she was selected this year's Professor of Military Science for U.S. Army Cadet Command out of 275 Army ROTC programs across the country.

"It's very humbling," Reyes said. "I never expected it. We do our jobs day in day out not because we want to be recognized but because we love what we're doing. We take our job very seriously that we're molding future leaders.

"This is such a small program. But what it highlights is size doesn't matter. It's not about how big you are but the quality of leaders you're producing. It's a team effort. NMSU is providing an outstanding education and we're providing them a different kind of education, giving them the leadership skills they need. Small programs can achieve such great and wonderful things if we all just roll up our sleeves and work hard and believe in these cadets."

Read more

# NMSU professor receives lifetime achievement award

After 25 years as a professor of geography at New Mexico State University and 35 years in the industry, Michael DeMers recently received the Wheeler Peak Lifetime Achievement Award for 2018.

The award, given by the New Mexico Geographic Information Council at the annual spring meeting in Albuquerque, honors individuals who have "served the geospatial community and the State of New Mexico to a degree well above and beyond the line of duty," according to Leland Pierce, president of the organization.

"I am so appreciative of this particular award because it comes from my peers in the state of New Mexico," DeMers said. "It is always nice to know that a lifetime of hard work has some lasting value. One really nice feature of this award is that I received it in front of several of my past NMSU students, fellow researchers, and colleagues."




DeMers also won the 2010 Anderson Medal of Honor in Applied Geography, the highest award given by the Applied Geography Specialty Group of the American Association of Geographers.

DeMers has published more than 75 research articles and six texts on geographic information systems two of which have been translated into Russian, Simple Chinese and Arabic. His current applied research focuses on GIS institutional design, GIS for water resources analysis and species range expansion models. Read more

NMSU geography professor Michael DeMers was awarded the 2018 Lifetime Achievement Award by the New Mexico Geographic Information Council President Leland Price. (Courtesy photo)

# NMSU professors among 300 artists in historic exhibit

The jewelry of two New Mexico State University art professors is on display in a first-of-its-kind exhibition opening at the Albuquerque Museum in June.

"American Jewelry from New Mexico" opened June 2 and runs through Oct. 14. The show represents nearly 2,500 years of jewelry history and includes some 300 artists from five cultures.

A book published by the Museum of New Mexico Press complements the exhibition.

Julia Barello, professor and head of the Department of Art in NMSU's College of Arts and Sciences, while not a native New Mexican, has been a practitioner of art in the state for more than 25 years. "The premise of the show is highlighting the arc of jewelry making production in the state of New Mexico from the ancient historical to contemporary."

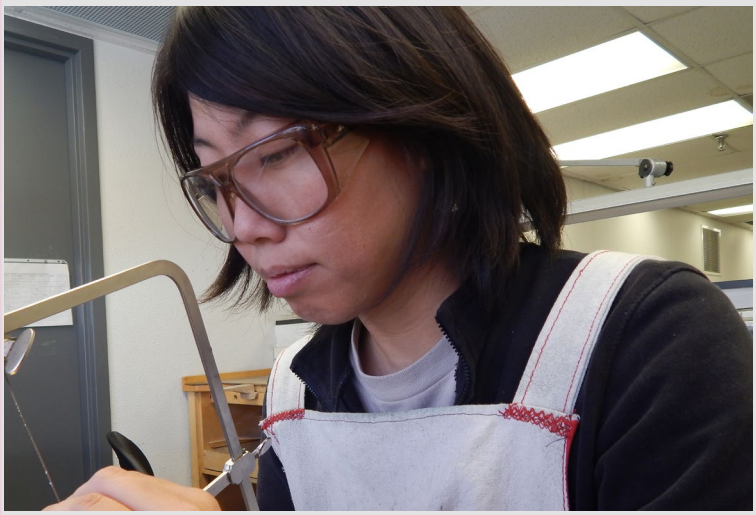
The NMSU professors' jewelry rounds out the contemporary timeline of history.

Barello claims the largest piece in the show – a 30-foot-long, 15-foot high wall-composition constructed of hundreds of shapes of MRI film (magnetic resonance imaging film) cut in the shape of hydrangea flowers. Strewn among the MRI flowers, sterling silver jewelry cast from original hydrangea plants are attached to the wall.

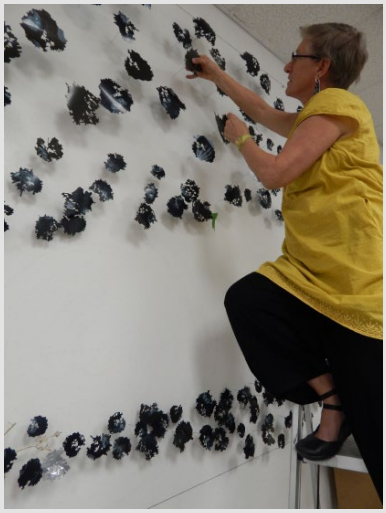
"The way my work fits into this is people will look at the wall and they won't recognize it as jewelry initially," Barello said. "They'll have to work to see there are wearable elements of body adornment incorporated into the wall composition. This approach re-contextualizes jewelry from the top of a pedestal or a jewelry box to part of a huge wall installation. It shifts around our perceptions of what jewelry is or should be." "The way my work fits into this is people will look at the wall and they won't recognize it as jewelry initially," Barello said. "They'll have to work to see there are wearable elements of body adornment incorporated into the wall composition. This approach re-contextualizes jewelry from the top of a pedestal or a jewelry box to part of a huge wall installation. It shifts around our perceptions of what jewelry is or should be."

Motoko Furuhashi, associate professor of art, fabricated a necklace of sterling silver, with mounted stones collected from across the state: Red River, Taos, Hatch, Los Alamos, Gila, Silver City, Aiden, Twin Lakes, Afton and Dona Ana. The necklace serves as a commemoration and record of a journey around the state.

"I was really interested in geological formations like soils and rich colors," Furuhashi said. "I specifically picked stones from locations that are visually and aesthetically different from each other. Some of them are coppery green or crystal-like quartz



Art professor Motoko Furuhashi works with a saw in the art room at New Mexico State University. Furuhashi is among 300 artists displaying her work at the Albuquerque Museum as part of a history of jewelry exhibit. (NMSU photo by Minerva Baumann)



NMSU art professor Julia Barello places hydrangea flowers made of MRI film on a wall for her composition for the Albuquerque Museum's show "American Jewelry from New Mexico." (NMSU Photo by Minerva Baumann)

and some of them are really rich red.

"New Mexico has so much history, deep in the culture. It makes me think of how people living decades or centuries ago were touching things I'm touching. It makes me think of what was happening historically. How the people shifted, how the culture shifted and now they're part of the history."

The history of jewelry making in New Mexico has been too big to tackle – until now.

"This show will exhibit unique jewels running the gamut from ancient through modern interpretations of culture and region," according to Phil Poirier, a Taos-area goldsmith and master gem cutter. "This is probably the first time an exhibit of this size and diversity has ever been curated in the state."

The collection focuses on what unifies, not what segments, jewelry making in New Mexico, curator Andrew Connors said. The show features about 300 objects, only one masterwork by an artist or creative team, representing a unique creative moment in time.



NMSU art professor Julia Barello's sterling silver jewelry cast from hydrangea plants is placed on a wall among flowers made of MRI film. (Courtesy photo)

"Telling all these diverse stories as one, focused on New Mexico, provides a glimpse into the American experience that is needed now more than ever," argued Connors, curator of art at the museum. Innovation and invention are the heart of creativity, he said, and "New Mexican jewelers have been proving that for 2,418 years at least."

Soon after Connors started planning the exhibition, he realized the significance of the comprehensive view of an art form that crosses and blends cultures. As curator, he challenged the traditional commercial and scholarly views that have divided Native American jewelry from "high jewelry" represented by American jewelers. "Unfortunately," he said, "by never telling the stories of these trajectories simultaneously, we have never been able to see the true breadth of artistic achievement in our nation's creativity."

Connors' emphasis on diversity and inclusiveness attracted Maria Samora, a Taos Pueblo jeweler known for her minimalist designs. The featured artist for Santa Fe's Native Treasures art market over the 2018 Memorial Day weekend, Samora said in an interview before her selection that she is driven both to stay true to her roots and to break down stereotypes.

"I think New Mexico has always had a very distinguished and unique style," she said. "I believe that people are always being influenced by each other. I see my designs being fueled by my passion to learn and explore technical possibility and new technology," she said. "We are all connected either consciously or even on a subconscious level."



NMSU art professor Motoko Furuhashi's necklace fabricated of sterling silver, with mounted stones collected from across the state are among the works on display at the Albuquerque Museum June 2 – Oct. 14. (Courtesy photo)

For Claire Kahn, a maker of refined bead-crochet jewelry who moved from San Francisco to Pojoaque in 2016, the Albuquerque exhibition celebrates the fresh ideas of artisans "inspired by, rather than derived from, the important examples and history surrounding us." While many events successfully showcase New Mexico's rich tradition in fine art, metals, pottery and architecture, she observed, jewelry shows tend to focus on a single culture, era, material or technique.

Read more

# NMSU student's short film in Cannes Film Festival

"Good Night" turned into a great opportunity for a group of New Mexico State University students. The short film written and directed by NMSU philosophy student Brandon T. Gass and starring NMSU students was accepted into the Festival de Cannes Short Film Corner/Cannes Court Métrage.
The students attended the Cannes Film Festival, among the most prestigious in the world, May 8-19.

In April, some of Gass' other films were shown at the Fountain Theatre in Las Cruces: "Idyll Nights," a 45-minute film, and two shorter films "Waiting for a Train" and "Stale Cherry."

The film "Good Night" features NMSU theatre majors Jessica Jimenez as the lead actress and Daniela Castorena as her friend. It runs just over six minutes.

"It's about friendship on the brink of transition," said Gass, who has made six short films, two documentaries and nine or 10 music videos. "It follows two friends who spend the night together before one of them has to leave the next morning for unknown reasons. It was meant to be a picture of what it is to know a close relationship will end soon."

Two other NMSU theatre students attended the festival with Gass and Jimenez. Taylor Rodriguez and Nick Check have both appeared as actors in other Gass films.

Jimenez, who will graduate in May 2019, was stunned when she heard the news about the film being accepted at Cannes and going to France for the festival. "It's still unbelievable," she said.

Read more



New Mexico State University student actors Jessica Jimenez and Danielle Castorena in a scene from "Good Night," a short film written and directed by Brandon T. Gass, a philosophy student. (Courtesy photo)

Brandon T. Gass (Courtesy photo)



# NMSU criminal justice honor society takes top awards at conference

By Billy Huntsman

New Mexico State University's chapter of Alpha Phi Sigma, a national criminal-justice honor society, won a number of awards at their national conference in New Orleans, Feb. 15-17, 2018. Andrea Joseph, college professor in NMSU's Criminal Justice Department, is the chapter's faculty adviser.

Among the awards the chapter won first place in are:

- Outstanding Unity Chapter Goal
- Outstanding Leadership Chapter Goal
- Star Chapter Award

"For the unity award, our chapter attended a number of social events together—the corn maze at Halloween, weekly dinners at Buffalo Wild Wings, laser tag—to show that our chapter is unified," Joseph said.

The leadership award is given to a chapter that displays being a community leader both on and off campus. NMSU's chapter attended schools' career days, built a handicap ramp, and other types of community services.

"The Star Chapter is given to a chapter that demonstrates both strong unity and leadership," Joseph said.

Read more



The students in New Mexico State University's chapter of the Alpha Phi Sigma criminal justice honor society gathered for dinner during their trip to New Orleans for their annual national conference competition. (Photo courtesy of Andrea Joseph)

# NMSU student talks about politics in Cameroon

A graduate student in New Mexico State University's Department of Communication Studies gave a lecture on state repression and civilian radicalism in Cameroon.

Blessed Ngoe is a master's student and graduate teaching assistant. He is also a native Cameroonian and previously published "The Sinking Ship: A Critical Analysis of Multiculturalism in Postcolonial Cameroon" in October 2017.

"Since November 2016, the Republic of Cameroon in West/Central Africa has witnessed one of the most tumultuous times in its history. People have been killed or lost their property due to President Paul Biya's "35-year-old dictatorship and reign of terror."

Ngoe's research focuses on the "Anglophone Cameroon problem," started by Cameroon's colonization by the French, Germans, and British. Ngoe tries to find suggestions on how to "contain the growing humanitarian and political malaise" that is becoming catastrophic for Cameroon.



Blessed Ngoe (Courtesy Photo)

# 2018 Student A

## Recognizing top stu



College of Arts and Sciences 2017-2018 Student Award recipients.

**Outstanding Graduate Awards**
Cody Champion – Biology
Meligha Garfield – Public Administration
David Greenberg – Sociology
Jill Mceldowney – Creative Writing

**Outstanding Undergraduate Awards**
DeLorean Forbes – Government
Grace Hooks – Biology
Dante Avalos – Biochemistry
Austin Martin-Likes – English & History
Danielle Peltier – Geology (Honorable Mention)

**Outstanding Student Service Awards**
Margaret Billings – Government
Emerson Morrow – Government &
Journalism & Mass Communications

**Dean's Graduate Awards for Excellence**
Kayla Myers – Anthropology
Sten Hasselquist – Astronomy (Honorable Mention)
Reza Tourani – Computer Science (Honorable Mention)

**Dean's Undergraduate Award for Excellence**
Diana Lopez – Psychology, Spanish &
Gender & Sexuality Studies

**NMSU Alumni Association Outstanding Graduate Award**
Daniela Barraza – Chemistry & Biochemistry

**College of Arts and Sciences Highest Honors**
Cailee Nelson – Psychology



Emerson Morrow, center, received the Outstanding Student Service Award. He's pictured here with journalism department head Hwiman Chung, left, and government department head Neil Harvey.



Cailee Nelson, right, from psychology, received the Highest Honors Award from the College of Arts and Sciences. She is pictured here with Associate Dean Beth Pollack.



Meligha Garfield, left, a graduate student in Public Administration, received the Outstanding Graduate Student Award from Neil Harvey, government department head.

# wards Ceremony
## udents for 2017-2018



Delorean Forbes, from Government, received the Outstanding Undergraduate Award.



Daniela Barraza, a graduate student in chemistry and biochemistry, received the Outstanding Graduate Award. She is pictured here with Associate Dean Beth Pollack.



Danielle Peltier, from geological sciences, received the Outstanding Undergraduate Award from Nancy McMillan, geological sciences department head.



Biology student Grace Hooks, received the Outstanding Undergraduate Award.



Biochemistry student Dante Avalos, received the Oustanding Undergraduate Award.

Sociology student David Greenberg received the Outstanding Graduate Student Award.



# NMSU journalism students collect donations for service learning

Students in NMSU Journalism 476 - Public Relations class participated in a semester-long project to help Casa de Peregrinos and the Aggie Cupboard get more visibility in the Las Cruces community, as well as get more donations to give to food-insecure community members and students. With the help of Greg Block, Acting Director of Housing and Residential Life, donation bins were set up in each of NMSU's dorm halls. Truckloads were collected and the total weight was 2,390 pounds. Clothing and household goods weighed 1,733 pounds and the food collected added up to 657 pounds.

"There were several truckloads of donations collected from RGH, Garcia, Chamisa and Piñon dorms," said Meg Long, Aggie Cupboard director. "The PR class created advertisements informing students in those dorms they could leave their unwanted items at the identified bins in the lobbies of the dorms. Donations included clothes, toiletries, household goods, and food. The donations benefited the Aggie Cupboard and Casa de Peregrinos. The PR class also assisted the Aggie Cupboard's Mobile Food Pantry by developing marketing materials for Facebook and our website. The food banks split the food and the other items went to the City of Hope."









# Associate dean retires after 30 years



In 1988, gasoline was 91 cents a gallon, "Die Hard" was a hit movie and Beth Pollack arrived in Las Cruces to begin her first job as an assistant professor of Spanish at New Mexico State University. Thirty years later, Pollack has held a number of positions including department head of Languages and Linguistics for 10 years. She will retire from NMSU in July having held the position of associate dean for academics since 2011.

"I have a lot of good memories of helping students," Pollack said. "By the time they get to me some of them are really frustrated and by the time they leave here, we usually are able to resolve it, but not always. We know what we can do and what we can't do. I can't pay a $5,000 tuition bill but we do take care of our students. Recently we've had the SAP (Sustaining Academic Progress) award, which is really important for students who need a little help to remain enrolled."

The Elizabeth Ayres Endowment helps to support the SAP program, which helps students who are in good academic standing but need some short term financial help. Pollack says she misses her days as a professor of Spanish. She taught everything from first semester Spanish to graduate literature seminars. She keeps in touch with some students.

"One of the nice things about NMSU is you don't lose students," she said. "It's large enough yet small enough that once you have them in class, you'll see them again. You can see how they've progressed."

Once she retires, Pollack plans to remain in Las Cruces. She will spend the first month relaxing, then she will travel to Portugal for a vacation. She also has several translations she wants to complete, particularly a novel she began translating years ago. What she will miss most are the students.

"One of my absolute favorite experiences is helping to line up students at commencement," she said. "I just love it. I high five them all and I'm out there yelling, go arts and sciences. That's become one of my favorite things to do because that's what we're here for, to celebrate what these students have accomplished."




Back row from left: Phil San Filippo, Marsha San Filippo, Sally Cutter, Glenn Cutter, Connie Hines, Jana Williams, Maryce Jacobs, Sheila Brack and Jag Cheema. Front row from left: Dean Enrico Pontelli, Wanda Bowman, Rynni Henderson, J. Paul Taylor, Heather Pollard, Heather Salopek and Sharon Trujillo-Kolosseus. Not pictured: R. Nick Franklin, Michael Johnson, Patty Lopez and Bibi Philippou.

The mission of the Dean's Council is to support the College of Arts and Sciences Dean, faculty, and students in the pursuit of excellence in teaching, research, service, and outreach.

The Dean's Council is an advisory council of volunteers who use their knowledge and influence to further the College's goals and to participate in ensuring future success.

# 2018 'A Starry

## College of Arts and Sciences honors researcher, business and community leaders

A New Mexico State University physics alumnus who won a $3 million prize for cutting-edge medical research; a Las Cruces couple, born and raised in the city, who both ran successful businesses for many years; and the visual and performing arts coordinator at Las Cruces Public Schools were the recipients of the NMSU College of Arts and Sciences 2018 "A Starry Night" awards. NMSU professors were also honored during the event.

The Star of the Sciences award was given to Don W. Cleveland, NMSU alumnus and field leading researcher in neurodegenerative diseases who recently was awarded the prestigious Breakthrough Prize, televised on the National Geographic Channel; the Star of the Arts award will go to John R. Schutz, NMSU alumnus and Coordinator for Visual and Performing Arts for the Las Cruces Public Schools and the Star of Town and Gown award was given to Mickey and Jan Clute. Mickey Clute is an NMSU alumnus who was president of Gencon Corp, a commercial construction company in Las Cruces for 35 years. His wife Jan is well known for her family's donation of the Rio Grande Theatre to the Dona Ana Arts Council.

"This year, we chose to move the event to downtown Las Cruces to create more of an outreach to the community," said Enrico Pontelli, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. "By hosting these awards at the Bank of the West and the Rio Grande Theatre, we are reinforcing our appreciation for those who contribute so much to the university and the College of Arts and Sciences."

Read more



Kelly Jenks of the Department of Anthropology was one of the 26 Arts and Sciences faculty honored as a Rising Star at the 2018 Starry Night.



Zachary Toups of the Department of Computer Science was one of the 26 Arts and Sciences faculty honored as a Rising Star at the 2018 Starry Night.



Hugo Perez of the Department of Journalism and Mass Communications was one of the 26 Arts and Sciences faculty honored as a Rising Star at the 2018 Starry Night.

# Night' Awards



Don Cleveland, left, won the Star of the Sciences Award. An alumnus of NMSU, he is a field-leading researcher who won the $3 million Breakthrough Prize this year for his research into neurodegenerative diseases. The Star of the Arts Award went to John R. Schutz, NMSU alumnus and Coordinator for Visual and Performing Arts for the Las Cruces Public Schools. The Star of Town and Gown Award went to Mickey and Jan Clute. Mickey Clute is an NMSU alumnus who was president of Gencon Corp, a commercial construction company in Las Cruces for 35 years. His wife Jan is well known for her family's donation of the Rio Grande Theatre to the Dona Ana Arts Council.










Watch videos of each of the honorees shown at the awards ceremony.

# College of Arts and Scien



**Sarah Ferguson**
**President**
**Major:**
Criminal justice and law and society



**Ellyssia Forbes**
**Vice president**
**Major:**
Biology



**Miranda Lovato**
**Secretary/treasurer**
**Majors:**
Criminal justice, psychology



**Jarod Peterman**
**Majors:**
Biology and business



**Andrea Morales-Avila**
**Major:**
Anthropology



**Alexander Warner-Garrett**
**Major:**
Journalism and mass communications

# ces student ambassadors



**Marly Casarez**
**Major:**
Psychology



**Emerson Morrow**
**Majors:**
Journalism and mass communications and government



**Tamanda Ellen Chabvuta**
**Major:**
Communication studies



**Everett Williams**
**Major:**
Biology



**Taj Ebanks**
**Majors:**
Criminal justice, psychology, and law and society

# The 14th annual J. Paul Taylor Social Justice Symposium focuses beyond walls, borders

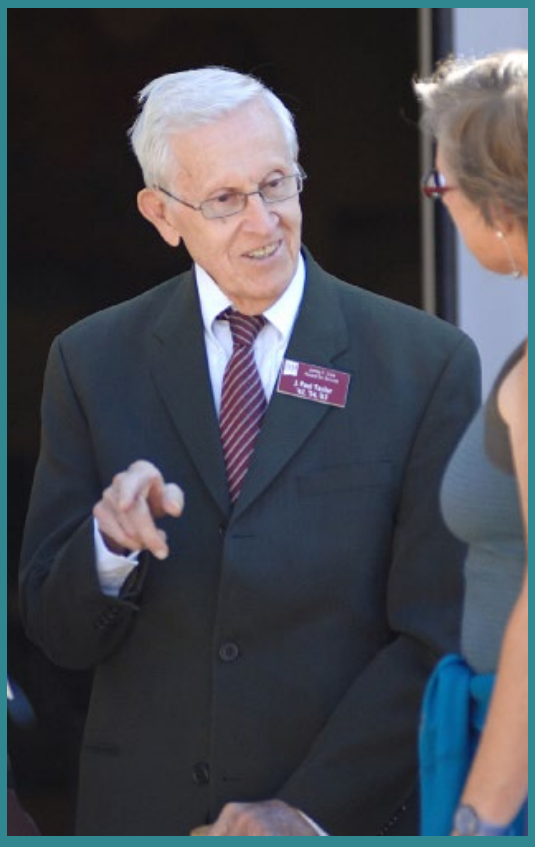
"Indivisible Justice Beyond Walls & Borders" was the theme of the 2018 J. Paul Taylor Social Justice Symposium. On Thursday, March 15, the symposium included a full day of discussions, films and events at the ASNMSU Center for the Arts, 1000 E. University.

On Wednesday, March 14, the Las Cruces community engaged in a pre-symposium community workshop by Christina Marín, from Phoenix College. The symposium, hosted by NMSU's College of Arts and Sciences, showcased experts tackling the tough subject of walls and borders dealing with many issues including racial and gender justice as well as physical walls and borders in the region.

Named for a respected state representative and educator, the J. Paul Taylor Social Justice Symposium began in 2005 when J. Paul Taylor, a well-known former New Mexico legislator and retired educator, suggested strategies for bringing resources of the university to address problems faced by underserved populations in the southwest.

Manal Hamzeh, associate professor of Gender and Sexuality Studies, chaired this year's planning committee for the symposium, which included NMSU faculty members Cynthia Bejarano, Larissa Lury, Connie Voisine and Anne Hubbell.

"The theme is indivisible justice, so we are trying to bridge across multiple borders and multiple walls," said Bejarano, a Regents Professor of Interdisciplinary Studies/Gender and Sexuality Studies. "It's a timely topic. We hear about the border wall on a national scale and rarely have an opportunity to explore how it touches the lives of people in borderland communities. When we think of community and through the optic of the J. Paul Taylor Symposium we aren't just thinking about one Paso Del Norte Regional



J. Paul Taylor. Courtesy photo.

Margo Tamez was the symposium's keynote speaker. She is an associate professor of indigenous studies at the University of British Columbia.



community. We are thinking about walls and borders at the university level and across communities of students, faculty and administrators, and across advocacy groups that comprise part of the larger Las Cruces and Paso del Norte Region. This symposium works to acknowledge the myriad ways that people have been somehow touched by walls and borders."

Patrick Narvaez, the Cacique from the Tortugas Pueblo, and Henry Narvaez, former Cacique, opened the symposium with a blessing followed by a welcome by Hamzeh and College of Arts and Sciences Associate Dean Beth Pollack. Taylor also joined the event to address participants.

A special exhibit by students of the J. Paul Taylor Academy titled "Reimagining Our World: Building Blocks of Justice" was on display to engage participants who had the opportunity to rearrange the building blocks designed by each class to represent their journeys into justice and possibilities of a just world.

The keynote speaker was Margo Tamez, associate professor of the Indigenous Studies Program, Community, Culture, and Global Studies Department, University of British Columbia at Okanagan. Following Tamez' talk, Bejarano introduced a screening of the film "El Muro," by Ramon and Rosalia Resendiz.

A panel discussion titled "The Paso Del Norte Region: Histories, Impacts, and Abolishing Border Colonialism" featured Gabriela Moreno, NMSU assistant professor of Spanish, Camilo Pérez-Bustillo, director of advocacy and research at Hope Border Institute in El Paso, Emiliano Ignacio Díaz Carnero, political geographer, Department of Cultural Studies at El Colegio de la Frontera Norte in Juarez, and Cynthia Pompa, ACLU El Paso, field organizer with the ACLU, Regional Center for Border Rights.

Marín, Program Director of Theatre & Film at Phoenix College, presented a drama workshop using newspaper theatre techniques developed to unpack how current events are portrayed through different media outlets.

In a closer look at a different border, Hamzeh introduced a research-based art exhibit by Visualizing Palestine (VP) about the walls and borders on Palestinian land and their impact on Palestinians' lives. The exhibit takes the viewer through a number of infographic posters that were used as prompts to open a conversation.

"The timing of this besides the national climate we are living in the last year is tied to 100 years of history in Palestine," said Hamzeh, who is from Palestine. "We wanted to engage the audience in facts to help them begin to understand a complex history between a very powerful state and an indigenous people in Palestine and begin to understand the stories of the Palestinians who have been struggling for justice for 70 years."

The 2018 Community social justice award was presented to Audrey Hardman-Hartley, executive director of Jardin de los Ninõs. The NMSU social justice awards went to NMSU criminal justice professors Dulcinea Lara and Nicholas Natividad, and Kayla Meyers, NMSU graduate student in anthropology.

The final event of the evening was a screening of "Open Bethlehem," a film about the walls and gates that isolate the ancient city, followed by closing remarks and a reception for participants.



A panel discussion on "Abolishing Border Colonialism."

# NMSU's Feminist Border Arts Film Festival to screen films from around the world

New Mexico State University hosted the third annual Feminist Border Arts Film Festival April 16 at the CMI Digital Media Theatre in Milton Hall.

"The first year, we had 273 entries," said Catherine Jonet, associate professor of gender and sexuality studies and the festival's director. "This year we received more than 2,000 short films. Each year the quality of the films gets better and better."

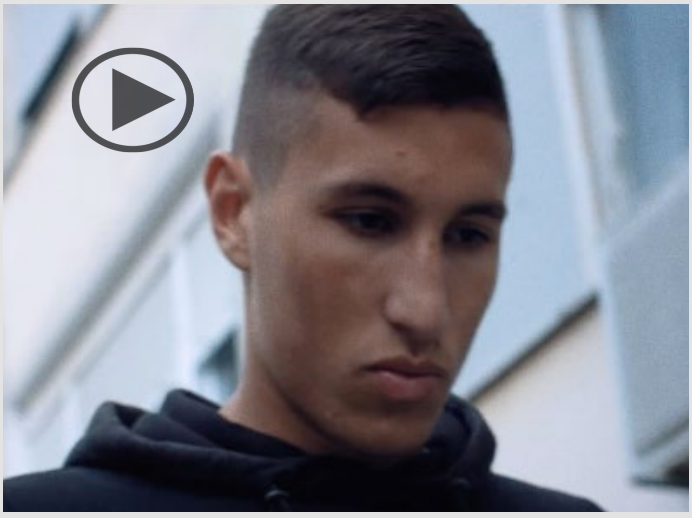
To be considered for the festival, submissions had to fit in with the mission of the festival, be under 15 minutes in length, and in any language as long as English subtitles are provided. The 2018 festival selected 109 films. A portion of the films include video art pieces that were featured in the one-day exhibit "Border Zones, Liminal Bodies," at the University Art Gallery on March 12. The live screening event on April 16 featured the 29 films selected as finalists for juried and audience awards.

Watch some of the featured films.

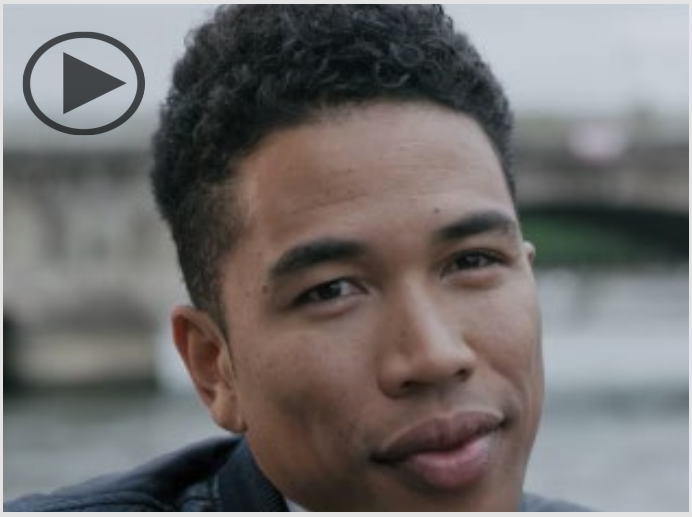
















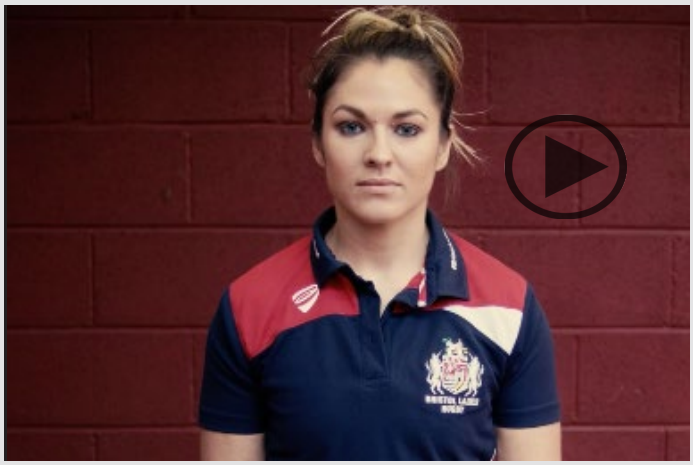


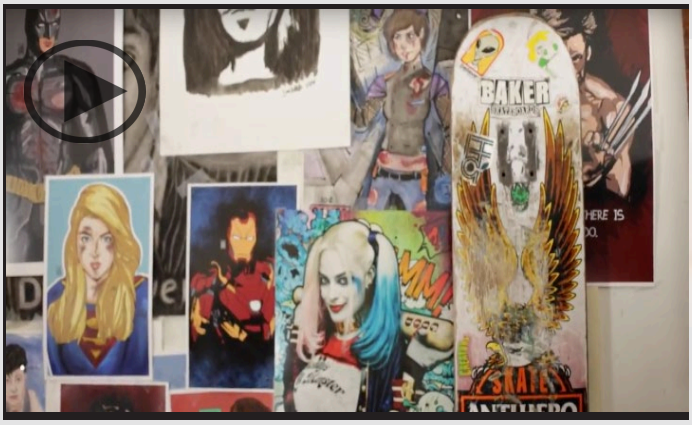






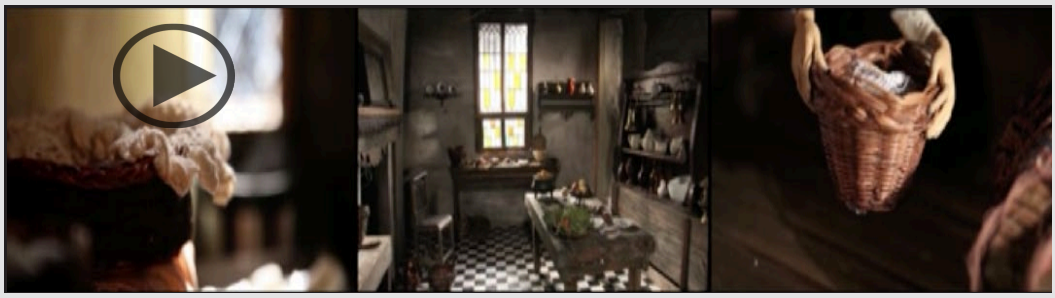





BAKER









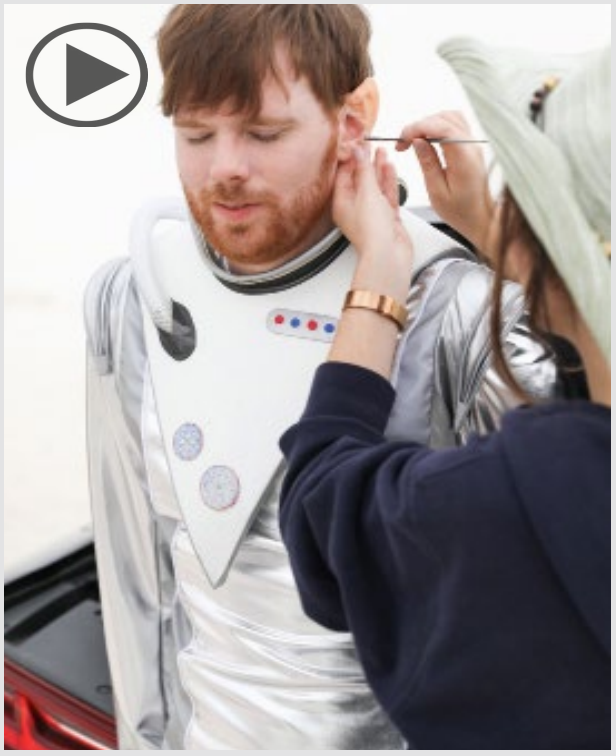




# NMSU CMI helps produce music video

A team of current and former Creative Media Institute students worked on a music video for the band RUSE OF FOOLS. Mel Soria, a music video director who has worked with huge bands like Fall Out Boy, Panic! At the Disco and Train and won an MTV Music Video award, came down to Las Cruces to shoot the music video with NMSU's CMI and a local production company, LNG Creative. RUSE OF FOOLS came to Las Cruces from the Philadelphia area to shoot the video all around southern New Mexico, White Sands and the Very Large Array near Socorro, and Las Cruces.







## Cybill Shepherd, Pam Grier attend LCIFF



Pam Grier, star of "Rose," the Opening Night Film of the 2018 Las Cruces International Film Festival. (Courtesy Photo)

Stars of the film, "The Rose," selected as the Opening Night Film for the Las Cruces International Film Festival, presented by NMSU's Creative Media Institute in the College of Arts and Sciences, were were on hand for at the 2018 Las Cruces International Film Festival March 7-11.

Cybill Shepherd, perhaps best known for her debut film "The Last Picture Show" and her television series "Moonlighting," and Pam Grier, famous for her role in "Jackie Brown" directed by Quentin Tarantino and as a regular on "Miami Vice," attended a screening and participated in audience discussions.

The five-day festival brought thousands of people to Las Cruces to see feature-length, short films, documentaries and student films. Last year, more than 6,000 people attended the event, with about a third coming from outside the immediate area.

Read more

## 3rd-annual Las Cruces In



Cybill Shepherd, star of "Rose," the Opening Night Film of the 2018 Las Cruces International Film Festival. (Courtesy Photo)

## Renowned film animator honored

Before "The Simpsons" and before the "Family Guy," there was Ralph Bakshi. In the 1970s, Bakshi established an alternative to mainstream animation through independent and adult-oriented productions. He received the Outstanding Achievement in Animation Award during the 2018 Las Cruces International Film Festival.

Between 1972 and 2015, Bakshi directed 10 theatrically released feature films, six of which he wrote. He has been involved in numerous television projects as director, writer, producer and animator. His debut feature film, "Fritz the Cat" released in 1972, is the most successful independent animated feature of all time. Read more



Ralph Bakshi received the Outstanding Achievement in Animation award. (Courtesy photo)

## Screenwriter of series '24' presents workshop, receives award at NMSU film festival

Jack Bauer, the lead character played by Kieffer Sutherland in the groundbreaking series "24," survived political coups, nuclear and bio-chemical threats, treason, torture and more. That series started the career of a screenwriter, Anne Cofell Saunders, who has gone on to become a writer/ producer and co-executive producer of various series.

Saunders brought her expertise to share with students as a panelist in the screenwriting workshop for the Las Cruces International Film Festival. She also received the Mark Medoff Outstanding Entertainment Writing Award. Read more



Anne Cofell Saunders received the Mark Medoff Outstanding Entertainment Writing award. (Courtesy Photo)

# nternational Film Festival

## Award-winning voice over artists presented workshops

Monica Rial and Jamie Marchi, two of the entertainment industry's most prolific voice over actors, were guest workshop presenters at the 2018 Las Cruces International Film Festival.

Rial, actress and director, is best known for her trademark shrill voices and has been heard often on the Cartoon Network and Adult Swim and is affiliated with Funimation and Seraphim Digital/Sentai Filmworks. Marchi, a voice actress and automatic dialog replacement writer and director, has voiced more than 300 characters. She has provided voices for a number of English-language versions of Japanese animae and video games.

Read more



Monica Rial, voice over actress best known as Bulma from the "Dragon Ball" series, presented a voice over workshop at the 2018 Las Cruces International Festival presented by NMSU. (Courtesy photo)



Jamie Marchi, voice over actress who has voiced more than 300 characters, presented a voice over workshop at the 2018 Las Cruces International Festival presented by NMSU. (Courtesy photo)

## Film festival workshop examines diversity, inclusion

The 2018 Las Cruces International Film Festival featured a workshop titled "Diversity and Inclusion in Entertainment." The panel included Cybill Shepherd, Pam Grier and Brian Espinosa.

Shepherd's credits include actress, model, writer, producer, and author during her career of over four decades. Aside from the film industry, Shepherd has been an outspoken activist for issues such as gay rights and abortion rights. In 2009, she was honored by the Human Rights Campaign in Atlanta to accept one of two National Ally for Equality awards.

Nominated for a Golden Globe and an NAACP Image Award for her performance in "Jackie Brown," Pam Grier was the first black woman to appear on the cover of MS. Magazine and was named as one of Ebony Magazine's 100 Most Fascinating Women of the 20th Century." Grief is profiled in "Women of Blaxploitation: How the Black Action Film Heroine Changed American Popular Culture."

"People see me as a strong black figure, and I'm proud of that, but I'm a mix of several races: Hispanic, Chinese, Filipino. My dad was black, and my mom was Cheyenne Indian. So you look at things beyond just race, or even religion: I was raised Catholic, baptized a Methodist, and almost married a Muslim."

Brian Espinosa, CEO of Optimism Entertainment, oversees the growth and development of the company's talent, music and sports divisions. He has worked on the management teams of many A-list stars including Academy Award, Emmy Award and Tony Award winners and nominees. Prior to co-founding Optimism Entertainment, he worked at John Crosby Management in their motion picture and TV talent department.

Read more

# NMSU hosts lecture on risks to democracy in US and around the world

By Billy Huntsman



Benjamin R. Cole (Courtesy photo)

One of the most dangerous threats to democracy is the kind of political tribalism that divides people into factions according to a professor from Boston, who gave a lecture at New Mexico State on March 6.

Benjamin R. Cole is an assistant professor of political science and international relations at Simmons College in Boston.

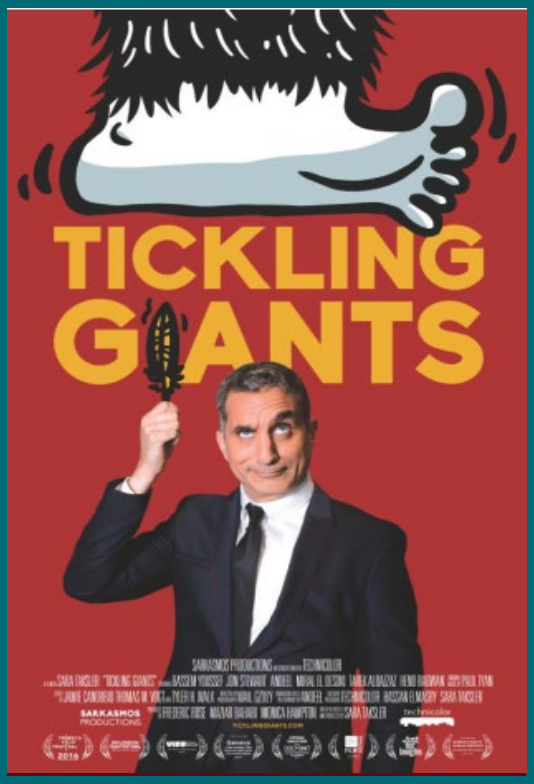
He teaches courses on democratization, comparative politics, and public policy. He also coauthored the State Fragility Index and "Global Report" series from 2008 to 2016.

Cole's lecture, hosted by NMSU's Department of Government, was titled, "Republic at Risk: Democracy and the Mischief of Faction," based on his forthcoming book, "Democratization and the Mischief of Faction."

Read more

# NMSU hosts screening of documentary about free speech repression in Egypt

By Billy Huntsman




Poster from the documentary, "Tickling Giants." (Courtesy image)

The Communication Studies Department at New Mexico State University screened a documentary titled "Tickling Giants" about a man known as the "Egyptian Jon Stewart" on April 25 in the Corbett Center Auditorium.

Bassem Youssef was a heart surgeon in Cairo up until 2011, during the Egyptian revolution. In May of that year, he started "The B+ Show" on YouTube, emulating Jon Stewart's style of parody and satire. In three months Youssef's show gained more than five million views.

After that Youssef, with funding from Egyptian billionaire Naguib Sawiris, started "Al Bernameg" on Egypt's ONTV, which ran for three seasons.

The documentary "Tickling Giants" is about Youssef's rise to Internet, then TV stardom – the first person from the Middle East to do so.

Throughout the filming of his shows, Youssef and his staff endured physical threats, protests, lawsuits and jail time all because of jokes commenting on hypocrisy in media, politics, and religion.

# AFROTC Exhibition

On March 29 the NMSU Air Force ROTC detachment hosted an exhibition in NMSU's Pride Field. The event featured an Air Force UH-1N helicopter landing in the middle of the field; demonstrations of the explosive-ordinance disposal mission by Holloman Air Force Base; a Homeland Security mine-resistant ambush-protected (MRAP) truck on display; and military working dogs.



Photos and video by Billy Huntsman





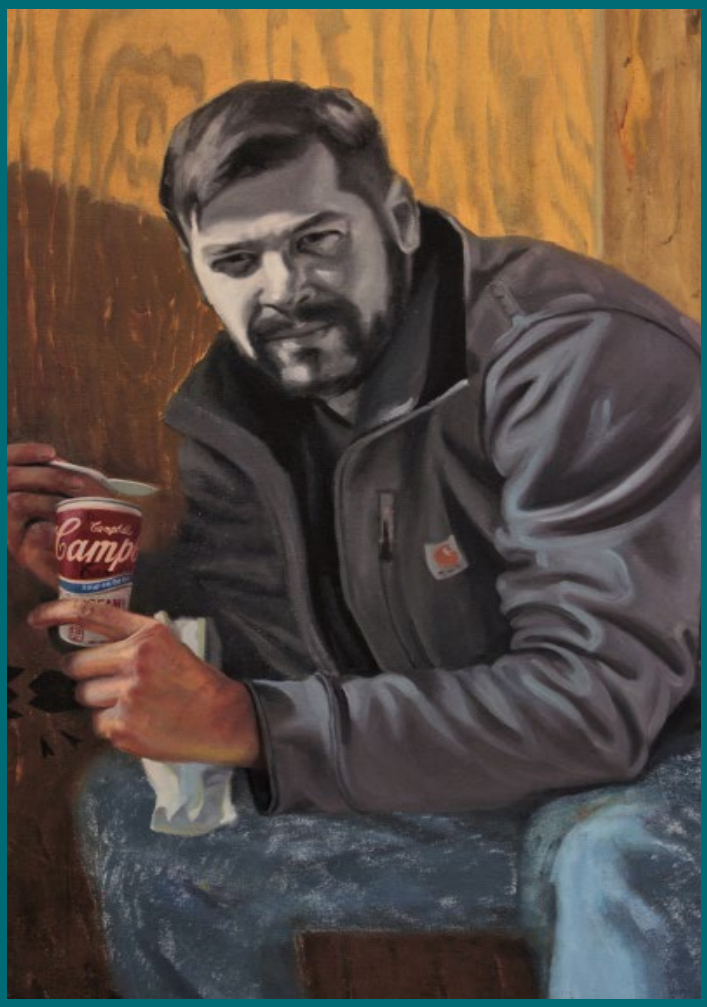



# NMSU's Department of Art hosts annual open house

New Mexico State University's Department of Art hosted a variety of activities at an open house, ranging from exhibitions of students' work along with art sales and art history lectures, workshops and demonstrations.

"The Department of Art opens its doors every year to community members, current and prospective students and families visiting NMSU," said Julia Barello, art professor and department head. "Visitors are encouraged to explore the facilities, meet our graduate students, participate in workshops, and view the work that our students have been creating."

The name of the exhibit was "NOT ONLY, BUT ALSO: 2018 MFA Thesis Exhibition."

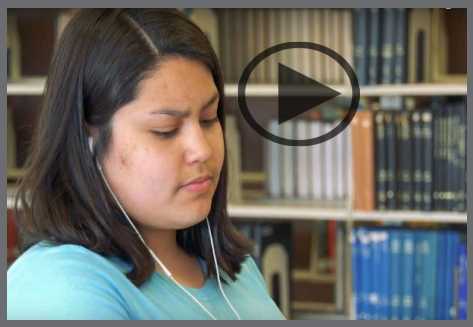


"Taking a Break" is an oil on canvas artwork by NMSU MFA student Tiago Finato, one of the works on display at the University Art Gallery as part of the MFA exhibition April 27.




"Mountain" was among the artwork on display at the NMSU BFA exhibit on April 27 at Wells Hall as part of the NMSU Department of Art open house. (Courtesy photo)

# Elizabeth Ayres Pollard SAP program continues to grow



Between various fundraising events such as this year's "A Starry Night," the University Art Museum's "Project Postcard" and the Make a STATEment campaign this spring, the Elizabeth Ayres Pollard Sustaining Academic Progress program continuing to make a difference in students' lives. The program provides financial assistance to students who are doing well academically, but are facing financial difficulty and at risk of dropping out of school. Hear how the program has impacted the life of one NMSU student studying criminal justice. Learn more about donating to this program.

Elizabeth Pollard graduated from New Mexico State University with a degree in theatre arts and from Arizona State University with a master's degree in dramaturgy. She worked at universities including Vanderbilt, Texas Tech and University of Alabama, Birmingham as well as Artist-in-Residence settings across the country. She died unexpectedly on Sept. 5, 2017. In her memory, her parentsWarren and his wife Heather have created the Elizabeth Ayres Pollard Endowment. Their endowment helps to support the Sustaining Academic Progress program in the College of Arts and Sciences.



Elizabeth Ayres Pollard (Courtesy Photo)

"She was a rescuer and she liked to help people," said her father Warren Pollard. "I can't remember how many kids she took into her house at times when she was in Birmingham. Some would stay for months, students having family or other problems."

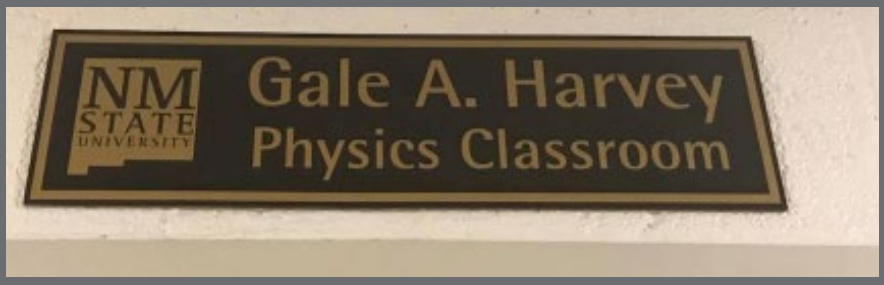
"We had been looking at fundraising for the new arts facility and the Dean's Fund for Excellence," said Heather Pollard. "One of the things Dean (Enrico) Pontelli and the associate deans spoke to us about just before Elizabeth died was that they were very concerned there were so many students who had good grades but were just lacking two or three hundred dollars to stay enrolled."

The Sustaining Academic Progress program addresses that need, providing financial assistance for qualified students who have an outstanding balance with the University that prevents them from registering for classes.

# Room in Gardiner Hall named for physics alumnus



Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences Enrico Pontelli, left, Gale A. Harvey, and Physics Department Head Stefan Zollner pose next to the plaque which honors Harvey and his support for the college.



# NMSU physics department awarded $1.26 million

If you go to a hospital and undergo any diagnostic procedure involving technology, chances are that most of them started out as a physics experiment.

Although quarks and neutrinos are subatomic particles that you'll never see – unless you're a physicist – diagnostic technology such as the MRI (magnetic resonance imaging) device is derived from equipment that was originally created to study these fundamental particles of matter.

The U.S. Department of Energy has renewed the New Mexico State University physics department's $1.26 million grant to continue research on these subatomic particles – quarks and neutrinos.

The three-year DOE grant will fund NMSU physics faculty, students and post-doctoral researchers for three projects: SeaQuest, MicroBooNE and PHENIX.

NMSU's newest experiment at the U.S. Department of Energy's Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory near Chicago is called SeaQuest. The goal of this experiment is to explore the contribution of anti-up and anti-down quarks to the spin of the proton. These quarks are collectively called "sea quarks," temporary particles that wink in and out of existence.

"We call them sea quarks because there's an ocean of them inside a proton and we distinguish from the three quarks that are there all the time," said Stephen Pate, physics professor who, along with physics associate professor Vassili Papavassiliou, leads the NMSU High-Energy Nuclear Physics team in the College of Arts and Sciences. "Sea quarks flitter in and out of existence, but on average there's always a few of them there and they do contribute to the structure of the proton. We don't know much about them, so on both the MicroBooNE and SeaQuest experiments, we'll focus on exploring the activities of these sea quarks."

NMSU's physics department has been conducting experiments at Fermilab since 1985. The MicroBooNE, short for "Micro Booster Neutrino Experiment," is the latest in a series of "BooNE" experiments. This one uses a large tank the size of a school bus filled with liquid argon to detect neutrinos.

The MicroBooNE scientific collaboration consists of nearly 200 physicists from 31 institutions in the U.S., U.K., Switzerland, Turkey and Israel. The MicroBooNE physicists presented their first collection of science results earlier this month at the international Neutrino 2018 conference in Heidelberg, Germany. The measurements are of various quantities that describe neutrino interactions with argon atoms, which make up the 170 tons of total target material used for neutrino collisions inside the MicroBooNE detector.



Physics graduate student Forhad Hossain, physics professor Stephen Pate, and physics graduate student Samantha Sword-Fehlberg are among the NMSU researchers in the Department of Physics working on projects supported by a $1.26 million grant recently renewed by the Department of Energy.

Neutrinos are so small that a hundred billion of these ghostly subatomic particles pass unnoticed through the tip of your finger every second.

"There's a dual purpose in the MicroBooNE experiment," said Papavasilliou. "One of them is to study the properties of the neutrinos themselves. The second goal is to study the nucleus of an atom. Our interest is to use the neutrino as a probe of the interior of the proton. Our group is mostly concerned with the second goal. We hope that within a year we can produce results and start publishing."

In the MicroBooNE experiment, Ph.D. student Samantha Sword-Fehlberg is using one of the most sophisticated processing programs ever designed for a neutrino experiment. She is teaching the computer to sift through the thousands of interactions that occur every day and create 3-D images of the most interesting ones.

"The protons and neutrons inside the argon nucleus do a dance. So we can use neutrinos to probe this dance and to understand the properties within the nucleus itself," said Sword-Fehlberg. "Since we're running all the time, we produce a ton of data so somebody has to look at that data to find all the interesting things that are happening.

"In the volume of a school bus, the events are about the size of your pinky. Instead of caffeinating a bunch of grad students and hoping they catch everything, I work on convolutional neural networks. My research is focused on this really advanced detection algorithm. What we do is take a set of pictures and we teach these networks what is in the images and we train them like a human being."

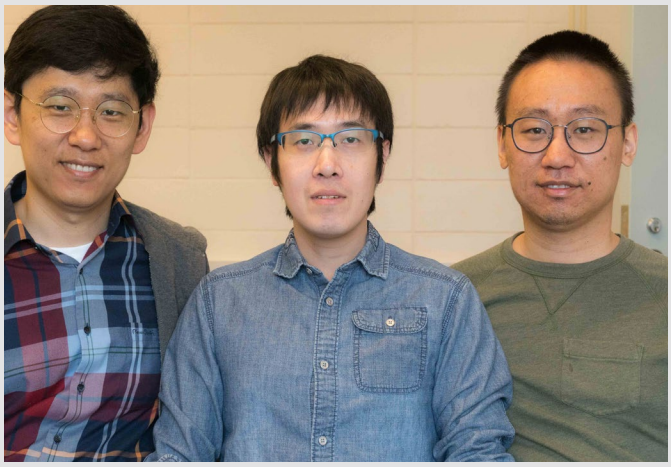
This research is progressing well, she said. The team has a neural network that is up to 79 percent accurate. Within the next year or so, Sword-Fehlberg expects that accuracy to go up and they'll be able to train the networks on actual data. With that, she hopes to earn her Ph.D. within about two years.

While the MicroBooNE experiment is well underway and the SeaQuest experiment is just beginning, the third project at the Brookhaven National Laboratory in New York has wrapped up. PHENIX (Pioneering High-Energy Nuclear-Interaction eXperiment), involving 400-plus scientists from more than a dozen countries is completed and researchers currently are writing up their findings. Graduate students Jeongsu Bok and Chen Xu are working together with post-doctoral researcher Haiwang Yu to publish their work on unusual interactions seen when polarized protons collide with gold nuclei at very high energies.

NMSU's DOE funding supports two physics faculty members, Pate and Papavassiliou, along with two post-doctoral researchers, Lu Ren at Fermilab and Haiwang Yu at Brookhaven. The grant also funds research activity for three to five graduate students: currently, Katherine Woodruff, Samantha Sword-Fehlberg, Jeongsu Bok, Chen Xu, and Forhad Hossain.




From Left: Graduate student Katherine Woodruff, associate professor of physics Vassili Papavassiliou and post-doctoral researcher Lu Ren are conducting research on the proton through the MicroBooNE project at Fermilab.



Physics graduate student Jeongsu Bok, post-doctoral student Haiwang Yu, and physics graduate student Chen Xu. Jeongsu are among NMSU researchers supported by a recently renewed grant from the U.S. Department of Energy.

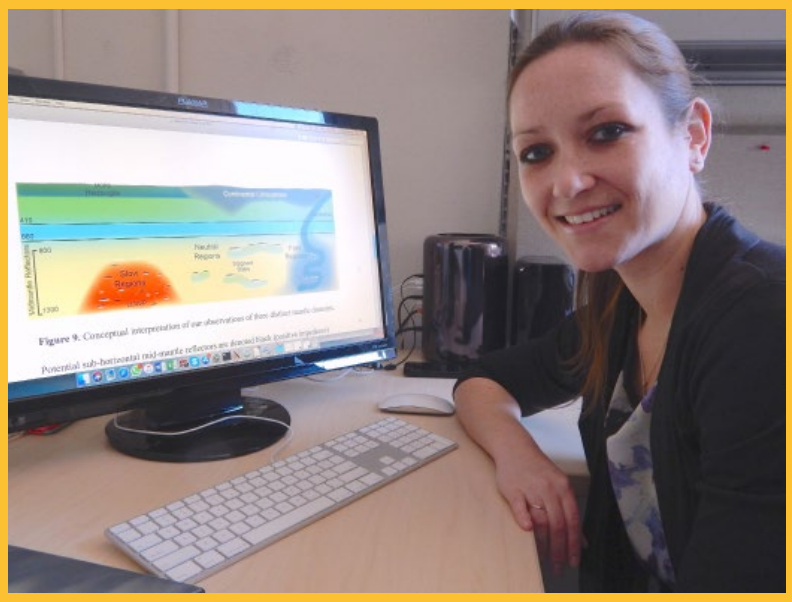
"The contribution of the sea quarks is relatively unknown," said Hossain, a Ph.D. student who will work on the SeaQuest project. "The experiment will have a proton beam and a proton target, but the protons in the target will be polarized so each proton acts like a tiny magnet. The purpose of the experiment is to explore how those quarks and anti-quarks are created and destroyed spontaneously, and how they contribute to the actual structure of the proton."

In addition to expected and unexpected results physicists discover while researching the tiniest building blocks of the universe, Pate says an important outcome of the research they conduct is the number of well-equipped physicists who contribute to the U.S. economy in industries as varied as technology, health and finance.

"It's been about 25 years I've been exploring the proton," Pate said. "Like medical diagnostic tools, a lot of the applications are not things we thought of ahead of time. What we do is explore the fundamental nature of the universe and its parts and share that knowledge. We also train really smart people and that has an impact on the rest of the economy. There are lots of people out there who got their degrees in nuclear physics or particle physics who go out into the economy and bring their problem-solving skills to integrate information and find solutions in all kinds of jobs."

Read more

# NMSU professor discovers answers about seismic shifts deep in the Earth



Lauren Waszek, NMSU assistant professor of physics, authored a paper published in "Nature Communication" analyzing why slabs deep in the Earth become trapped at certain depths. (NMSU photo)

The largest and most-devastating earthquakes and volcano eruptions occur where one tectonic plate is shifted underneath another one. At these so-called subduction zones, the plates become "slabs" and sink into the Earth's mantle, a thick layer of hot and deformable viscous rock.

However, what governs the sinking motion of slabs within the mantle is not well understood.

A New Mexico State University researcher authored a paper published in "Nature Communications" that takes a look at how and why these giant slabs move. The article titled "Global Observations of Reflectors in the Mid-Mantle with Implications for Mantle Structure and Dynamics," seeks to answer the question of why some slabs stop sinking at some depths, and become trapped there.
Read more

# NMSU researchers study growth of hawk population in Albuquerque

By Billy Huntsman

A student in New Mexico State University's Biology Department published a paper in "Condor – Ornithological Applications," an international scientific journal, about the population ecology of Cooper's hawks in urban Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Brian Millsap is a Ph.D. candidate who, since 1978, has worked for the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).

After three years as the national raptor coordinator for the USFWS, the position he still holds today, Millsap decided he wanted to apply his professional knowledge to obtaining his Ph.D. and has been working with NMSU's Department of Fish, Wildlife and Conservation Ecology's professor Gary Roemer since 2013.

Read more



Cooper's hawk. Courtesy photo.

# NMSU alums find interesting mating habits of hummingbirds, parakeets

By Billy Huntsman

Two former New Mexico State University biology graduate students are publishing their dissertation research investigating how the selection of mates may have contributed to the development of sophisticated cognitive abilities in birds.

Marcelo Araya-Salas and Angela Medina-Garcia worked with biology professor Tim Wright, who runs the Avian Communication and Evolution Lab at NMSU.

Araya-Salas' research focused on long-billed hermit hummingbirds. Araya-Salas also found evidence that the territorial song sung by males is correlated with the cognitive abilities of the males, thus providing females with cues about the cognitive abilities of potential mates.

Medina-Garcia ran males through a series of tests challenging different cognitive abilities, then exposed these males to a population of females to see whether females preferred to mate with males that scored better on these tests. Read more



Long-billed hermit hummingbird. (Courtesy Photo)

# NMSU geology professor studies $CO_2$ storage in rocks in Norway

By Billy Huntsman

Carbon is considered the basic building block for all life on the planet and it occurs in large volumes on Earth where is cycles through the atmosphere, oceans, soils, and rocks. Most people are likely familiar with carbon storage in the atmosphere in the form of carbon dioxide gas ($CO_2$). However, a large amount of $CO_2$ is in fact stored in solid form in rocks that make up the outer layers of the Earth's crust.

Brian Hampton, NMSU assistant professor of geology in the College of Arts and Sciences co-authored a paper in the journal "Nature Communications" that analyzed how solid $CO_2$ is stored in iron- and magnesium-bearing (ultramafic) igneous rocks through the process of carbonation.

Read more


Brian Hampton and team members in Norway. (Courtesy Photo)

# NMSU anthropology professor studies evidence of historic trading route

By Billy Huntsman

An assistant professor of anthropology and her students at New Mexico State University are conducting archaeological research on El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro, a Spanish-Colonial period trade route extending from Mexico City to Santa Fe.

Kelly Jenks, her research assistant Shannon Cowell, and students enrolled in her Cultural Resource Management classes are doing the work as part of a cooperative grant with the New Mexico Bureau of Land Management.

Read more



New Mexico State University students, led by Kelly Jenks, worked at the La Parida townsite on the Camino Real. The town was occupied in the early to late-1800s. Both archaeology and history students are working on the project, and the research includes archival work as well as field investigations. Photo courtesy of Brenda Wilkinson, BLM.

# NMSU faculty collaborate on grant to study Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National

By Billy Huntsman

An interdisciplinary team of anthropologists, geologists, biologists, and geographers from New Mexico State University is helping the New Mexico Bureau of Land Management by locating and recording natural and cultural resources on the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument.

The multi-disciplinary research is funded through a five-year grant from the BLM, which will use the information collected by the team to better manage these resources for the public. This grant is a direct outcome of a memorandum of understanding that was negotiated between the Las Cruces office of the BLM and NMSU researchers in spring of 2016. The intent of the MOU is to essentially establish the NMSU faculty involved as "subject matter experts on call" to conduct research needed to help BLM develop a Resource Management Plan for the Monument.

Read more



NMSU faculty from left: Donovan Bailey, Biology; Michaela Buenemann, Geography; Kelly Jenks, Anthropology; Rani Alexander, Anthropology; Emily Johnson, Geology; Chris Brown, Geography, Peter Houde, Biology. (Courtesy photo)

# NMSU researchers explain mosquito release in public meeting

New Mexico State University biology professors Immo Hansen, Kathryn Hanley and John Xu gave a presentation about the research behind the release of sterile male mosquitoes on the NMSU campus in June. The research is part of the Southwest Aedes Research and Mapping project with the New Mexico Department of Health.

The professors hosted a town hall meeting on May 24 giving a presentation on their methods and answering questions to help community members understand these mosquitoes to be released are not harmful and are of value in the efforts to control the insects that carry diseases such as dengue fever and Zika virus.

"The research is intended to control the mosquito population in the area by introducing male mosquitoes that have been irradiated to sterilize them, and then released on the NMSU campus," said Hansen. "When such sterile males mate with female mosquitoes of their species, the females lay sterile eggs, and the overall population of mosquitoes declines."

Hanley has been studying the Zika virus for 12 years. She and geography professor Michaela Buenemann are currently working with the New Mexico Department of Health to map the geographic distribution of mosquitoes that can carry the Zika virus in the state. Hansen and Xu are engaged in other areas of research involving mosquito vector control.

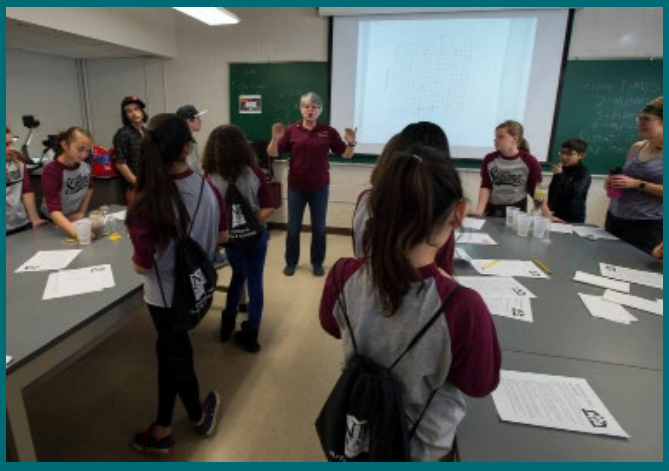
Hansen heads NMSU's Molecular Vector Physiology Lab, focused on techniques and strategies to manage mosquito populations and prevent epidemics of mosquito-borne diseases.



Xu leads research about mosquitoes' microbiome, the bacteria and fungi that live together with the mosquito. Manipulating the mosquito microbiome also can help mosquito control efforts.

The project is targeting yellow fever mosquito (Aedes aegypti) populations on campus. The release of the sterile male mosquitoes in mid-June was part of the research in which female mosquitoes are captured and tested to assess whether this method of interdicting mosquito proliferation is successful.

# A Day as a College Student' at NMSU



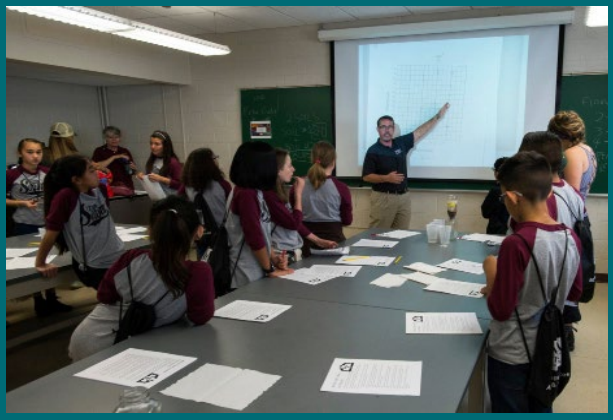
Geological Sciences Department head Nancy McMillan (above) gives instructions to Las Cruces fifth graders who spent time in the geology lab learning during "A Day as a College Student" at NMSU. The students spent the day not only doing hands-on experiments, but also talking to NMSU faculty and staff about careers. (Courtesy Photos)

Read more











# Kids' summer 2018 computer science camps

**The Young Women in Computing program** holds summer camps in June and July for girls from middle school through high school. Students receive opportunities to create, build and learn programming in a fun environment.

**The Verizon Innovative Learning summer camp,** hosted by the computer science department, is for 100 boys entering sixth through eighth grades. The camp is designed to put technology into students' hands and give them experience solving real world problems.

**A Girls' Tech Camp**: Girlhood Remixed is offered through the English Department's Borderlands Writing Project for girls who have completed fifth through eighth grade.



The Young Women in Computing program hosts fun summer camp intensives that empower middle and high school girls with critical computing skills. The young women learn to code in C and Python, while exploring technologies like Lilypad Arduino and Raspberry Pi's.



Mireya Sanchez-Maes is building a card game using Java programming.



Sydney Schurtz works on a multilayered game design build using Scratch!



Angelita Altamirano and Sariah Salas work on their Lilypad Arduino computational textiles project build. Using an Arduino microprocessor, the young women code programs in C and create beautiful designs on canvases and bags that integrate music, LED lights, switches, and buttons. — at NMSU Department of Computer Science.

# NMSU Zuhl Museum receives new baby mammoth exhibit

By Billy Huntsman

Herb Zuhl, the namesake of the Zuhl Museum at NMSU, donated a new baby mammoth exhibit to the museum.

The mammoth, nicknamed "Borealis," was purchased by Zuhl from Hagar's Minerals and Fossils in Alaska expressly for display in the museum.

Baby mammoths are rare in the fossil record. Predators typically ate them and what wasn't eaten disintegrated due to the thinness of the immature bones. This little mammoth had the back of its skull chewed on by a large predator, such as a lion (after death, once frozen and buried in the ice most likely). Other baby mammoth material replaced missing elements. It has roughly 25-percent repair.

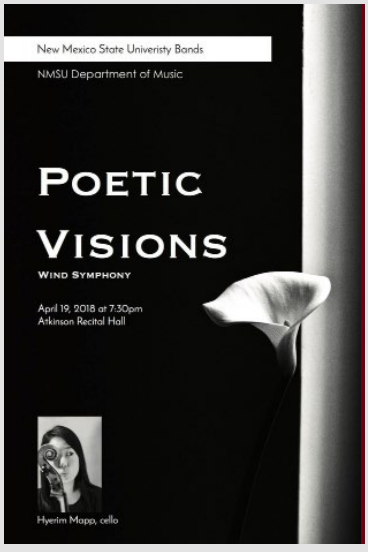
Woolly mammoths were closely related to today's Asian elephants. They looked a lot like their modern cousins, except for one major difference. They were covered in a thick coat of brown hair to keep them warm in their home on the frigid Arctic plains. They even had fur-lined ears.

The most recent Ice Age occurred during the Pleistocene Epoch, as glaciers covered huge parts of the planet Earth. It is the first in which Homosapiens evolved, and by the end of the epoch, nearly every part of the planet contained humans. The Pleistocene Epoch was the first epoch in the Quaternary Period and the sixth in the Cenozoic Era. The current Holocene Epoch followed.

Most mammoth populations had died out by around 10,000 years ago although a small population of 500-1000 woolly mammoths lived on Wrangel Island in the Arctic until as recently as 1650 BC. This was approximately 1000 years after the pyramids at Giza were built.




# Department of Music spring performances









# University Museum hosts photo exhibit

By Billy Huntsman

The New Mexico State University Museum hosted a photography exhibit, "Defending Truth and Memory: The Path Towards Justice in Guatemala," from Feb. 1 through June 30.

The exhibit featured 35 photos of the indigenous people of Guatemala.

"These photos capture the strength and beauty of the people's struggle for justice," said Anna Strankman, the museum's curator.

In 2013 former Guatemalan President José Efraín Ríos Montt, in a Guatemalan court, was found guilty of crimes against humanity for killing more than 1,700 Maya Ixil Indians from 1982-1983.

"Just 10 days later, the sentence was overturned and the case was sent to retrial," Strankman said. "This retrial continues to this day, and this journey is documented in this historic and breathtaking exhibition."

The University Museum at NMSU is the first venue in the United States to present and display the entirety of this exhibit, which was gathered by Guatemala's Center for Human Rights Legal Action (CALDH).

On opening night, Guatemalan photojournalist Roderico Y. Diaz spoke about his experiences documenting the survivors of Montt's presidency.

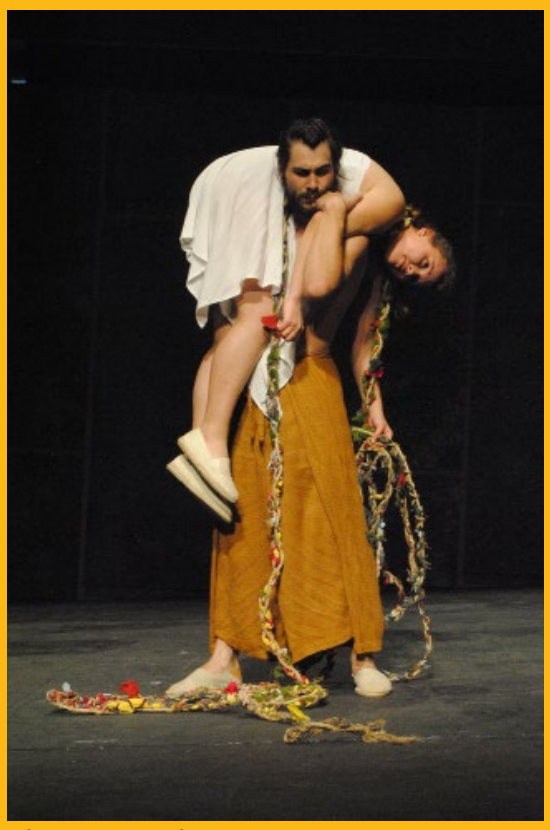
The exhibit was co-sponsored by the University Museum, Gender and Sexuality Studies, International and Border Programs, the Criminal Justice Department, and the Honors College.

In the coming months, the museum will also hold screenings of films related to Montt's presidency and the genocide he was convicted of. The schedule of these films is to be announced.





# NMSU Theatre Arts spring performances



The NMSU Theatre Arts Department performed a preview of Homer's "The Odyssey" in February.



Above and right: Students in Theatre Arts performed for the audience at the 2018 A Starry Night ceremony.



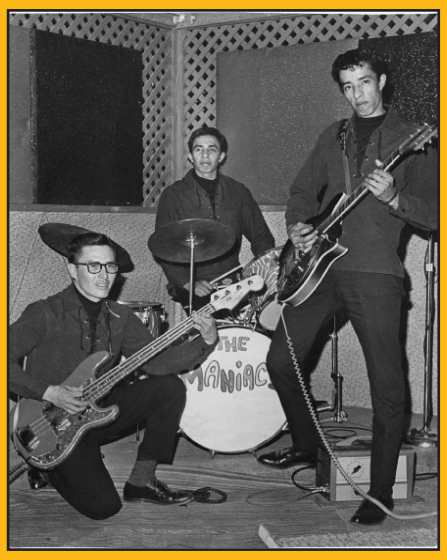
# University Art Gallery unveils first major exhibit of 2018

The New Mexico State University Art Gallery's first major exhibit for spring featured Wendy Red Star's "The Maniacs (We're Not The Best, But We're Better Than the Rest)."

The exhibition, which included a series of Saturday hands-on art workshops for children and adults as well as partnership events with several NMSU departments, received for a $20,000 Art Works award from the National Endowment for the Arts. Read more



Wendy Red Star, artist turned activist, presented a multi-sensory, immersive installation "The Maniacs (We're Not The Best, But We're Better Than the Rest), an exhibit at the University Art Gallery at NMSU from Jan. 26 – March 16. The show incorporated family photos, written notes, sound and sculptural environments to map 25 years of her father's life in rock music. (Courtesy Photo)



The Maniacs were a 1960s-70s all-Crow Indian rock band that played in both the Marine Corps and local to the band's home in south-central Montana in "Crow Country," or the Crow reservation near the town of Pryor. The Maniacs, known colloquially as the Crow Tribe's "The Beatles," both positively influenced the Crow people through their indigenized pop expression and also made an impact on non-Native audiences.

# Annual Juried Student Show opens at NMSU Art Gallery

The University Art Gallery at New Mexico State University hosted its annual Juried Student Show at a public exhibition in D.W. Williams Hall.

"The annual NMSU Juried Student Show is an incredible opportunity for the community to see a glimpse of what NMSU Art students of all levels are working on at this moment in time," said Jasmine Woodul, gallery manager. Read more



"Proprietorial" is a charcoal on paper artwork by Rubi Madrid. It is among 42 student works displayed as part of the Annual Juried Student Art Show at NMSU. (Courtesy photo)



"The Playground, archival inkjet print by Kisura King was on display with other student art at NMSU's Art Gallery.

## ‘Global Connections’ series highlights national parks

This is the seventh year the College of Arts and Sciences has offered its “Global Connections” series, which features faculty members’ trips around the world.

As part of the centennial celebration of the nation’s National Park Service, New Mexico State University History Professor Jon Hunner took a sabbatical to crisscross the country visiting various national parks and write firsthand about his experiences in a blog called “Driven by History.”

In February, Hunner began writing a book – a history of the United States through the lens of the National Parks where the historic events actually happened.

“We became who we are as a country because of the encounters, the exchanges that happened at these parks,” Hunner said. “They really are one of the best places where we can get directly connected with our past.”

Read more



The Statue of Liberty. Photo taken by Jon Hunner on the 100th birthday of the National Park Service.

## Community creates art at UAG from donated fabric



The University Art Gallery at New Mexico State University hosted the “Community Quilt” project with artist John Garret for the production of three very distinct quilts under construction over the summer.

Members of the community were invited to participate in the process by contributing fabric from their clothing, household fabrics, even old dishtowels or curtains and sewing scraps. All materials, colors and designs were included in the project and incorporated into the work as a collaborative art endeavor.

Members of the community are invited to participate in the process by contributing fabric for a community art project at the University Art Gallery at New Mexico State University with artist John Garret for the production of three very distinct quilts, May 24–July 14. (Courtesy image)

# Family accepts son's master's degree

Kristopher (Kris) Michael Burke, 32, of Las Cruces, NM, passed away Tuesday, Feb. 27, 2018. Burke had graduated with a bachelor's degree in geography in 2013 and was working on a master's degree when he passed away suddenly with 90 percent of the work completed. His family accepted a master's degree that Burke was awarded posthumously at the May 2018 commencement.



Kristopher Michael Burke

Kris was born in Las Cruces to Karen and Ronnie Burke on Dec. 31, 1985. He graduated from Mayfield High School in 2004. He then later attended and graduated with honors in geography with an emphasis on geographical information systems (GIS) from New Mexico State University. He then completed his master's courses and was working on his dissertation.

Kris was often described as "an old soul." he had a witty, dry sense of humor, and an infectious laugh. He was a bicycle enthusiast, riding thousands of miles through New Mexico and other places throughout the US. Kris was a very loving, intelligent, and kind-hearted person, and the problems of the world weighed heavily on him.

Kris was preceded in death by his brother Dustin Shane Burke, his maternal grandparents, Sammie and Mabel Chavez, and his paternal grandmother, Greta Burke.

Kris is survived by his parents Karen Chavez Burke and Ronnie Burke, his brother Jon (Leticia) Burke of Branson, Missouri, and paternal grandfather, Edsel (Rita) Burke. His aunts: Kathy (Dennis) Page; Kim (Mark) Dunbar, and Jeannine (Steff) Chavez, Barbara (Larry) Crum, Yvonne (Al) Alred, and his uncle, Michael (Robin) Burke. He was especially close to his



Carolyn Quintana (Courtesy Photo)

# Retired associate director of research remembered

Carolyn Quintana, associate director of NMSU's Research Center died on Saturday, March 24, 2018. "Carol," as she was known to family and friends, was from Mesilla, and worked at NMSU until she retired in 2004. After her retirement, she enjoyed spending her time painting.

Carol is survived by her husband, Lee Quintana; a son, Ron Quintana, and his wife Christine; two granddaughters, Shawna Arroyo and husband, Carlos, and Mandi Quintana; three great grandchildren, Raimey, Jordyn, and Ethan. Other survivors include her siblings, Rocky Lujan, Margaret Chavez and Martha Torres.

# Thank you for supporting the College of Arts & Sciences



## Mission Statement

The College of Arts and Sciences provides the foundational education for every NMSU student and a wide array of degrees preparing students to be knowledgeable and responsible citizens of our world. We promote life-long discovery and improvement of society through cutting edge research and creative activity and by fulfilling our land-grant mission through outreach and engagement with the larger community.

**Contact Us**

Mailing Address
MSC 3335
PO Box 30001
Las Cruces, NM 88003-3335

Physical Address
Breland Hall
1525 Stewart Street
Las Cruces, NM 88003