



Congratulations to the
College of Arts and Sciences
Faculty & Staff Award Recipients!

-Wanda Bowman

Ashley HomeStore
3299 Del Rey Blvd.
Las Cruces, New Mexico 88012
575.523.3933

Faculty & Staff Awards Ceremony

April 14, 2016



College of Arts and Sciences

Travel Grants

Lucy Zollner

Department of Languages & Linguistics

Lucy Zollner is a college assistant professor and she teaches the Portuguese and German languages. She will use her travel grant to participate in an Aggies Go Global expedition to Lisbon, Portugal where faculty and students will experience cultural immersion.



Stefan Zollner

Department of Physics

Dr. Stefan Zollner is a professor and department head in the Physics Department. He will use his travel grant to attend and give presentations at the annual spring meeting of the German Physics Society in Regensburg, Germany, Dr. Zollner's hometown.

LAS CRUCES SUN-NEWS
lcsun-news.com

proudly supports



College of
Arts and Sciences



College of
Arts & Sciences
All About Discovery!

Please join us after the ceremony for a reception honoring the award recipients in the Hershel Zohn Rehearsal Hall, 2nd Floor

Travel Grants



Graciela Unguez

Department of Biology

Dr. Graciela A. Unguez is a professor and her research interests have focused on studying the mechanisms responsible for the formation and plasticity of electromotor circuits. She will use her travel grant to attend the Satellite Electric Fish Meeting: Electrosensory and Electromotor Systems at the International congress of Neuroethology in Montevideo, Uruguay.

Mercedes Valadez

Department of Criminal Justice

Dr. Mercedes Valadez is an assistant professor and she teaches undergraduates Victimology and Courts and Sentencing. Dr. Valadez will use her travel grant to visit the Kino Border Center on the Nogales, Arizona and Nogales, Mexico border to interview deportees.



Igor Vasiliev

Department of Physics

Dr. Igor Vasiliev is a professor and his research is focused on computational studies of nanomaterials. He will use his travel grant to attend the international tutorial and workshop “DFT and TDDFT in the Real-Space Formalism within the PARSEC Code.”



Eva Michelle Wheeler

Department of Languages & Linguistics

Dr. Eva Wheeler is an assistant professor in Spanish and her research interests are sociocultural linguistics with an emphasis on language and identity and the intersection of language and race. She will use her travel grant to present at the international Hispanic Linguistics Conference in Lisbon, Portugal.

Message from the Dean



Welcome to the Sixth Annual College of Arts and Sciences Faculty & Staff Awards Ceremony. Each spring we honor outstanding faculty and staff across the college and celebrate the commitment to excellence that each recipient demonstrates.

My gratitude goes out to the faculty and staff who nominated their colleagues and co-workers. Their letters of nomination reveal their deep appreciation and recognition of the many ways the awardees contribute to our university being known as a “caring community transforming lives through discovery.”

A special thanks goes to Dr. Wil Kilroy, our emcee and to the members of the awards committees who thoughtfully reviewed the nominations and selected the awardees from a broad-based talent pool in our college.

We are so pleased that you have joined us for this special celebration and we value your support of our college and New Mexico State University.

Dr. Enrico Pontelli, Interim Dean, College of Arts and Sciences

Master of Ceremonies, Wil Kilroy



Wil Kilroy is currently the Department Head of Theatre Arts at NMSU and the Managing Director of the American Southwest Theatre Company, holding a BFA and MFA in Acting with additional training at the American Academy of Dramatic Art and the National Shakespeare Company in NYC.

He has worked nationally as an actor and director, from an alien on TV's *Babylon 5*, to the jilted boyfriend in *Tony 'n Tina's Wedding*, and he annually performs as a guest artist with The State

Ballet of Rhode Island. As the co-founder of the National Michael Chekhov Association, Wil has presented workshops from Greece to London and the U.S.

Wil is the recipient of three Kennedy Center Bronze Medallions, a Kennedy center scholarship for study with Uta Hagen, the Moss Hart Award, the Maine Education Association's Human and Civil Rights Award, and USM's Outstanding Teacher/Scholar Award. Wil is also a certified fitness instructor.

Program

Welcome

Dr. Enrico Pontelli, Interim Dean
Wil Kilroy, Department Head for Theatre Arts

Presentation of Awards

Arts and Sciences Travel Grants

Wil Kilroy

Arts and Sciences Course Release Awards

Wil Kilroy

Arts and Sciences Staff Awards

Enrico Pontelli

International Engagement Award

Jeff Longwell, Department of Languages & Linguistics

Outstanding Community Partners

Anne Hubbell, Associate Dean

Outstanding Faculty Achievement Award in Outreach

Anne Hubbell, Associate Dean

Outstanding Faculty Achievement Award in Research

Jeff Brown, Associate Dean

Outstanding Faculty Achievement Award in Teaching

Beth Pollack, Associate Dean

Arts and Sciences Student Advising & Retention Award

Beth Pollack, Associate Dean

Arts and Sciences Manasse Scholar

Tim Wright, Department of Biology

Arts and Sciences Department Diversity Award

Jag Cheema, Dean's Council Member

Arts and Science Outstanding Department Head

Heather Pollard, Dean's Council Chair

Closing Remarks

Travel Grants



Patricia McGregor-Mendoza

Department of Languages & Linguistics

Dr. McGregor-Mendoza is a professor of Spanish and Linguistics and her research interests include language attitudes, teaching of linguistics and language policy. She will use her travel grant to present at the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese Annual Conference in Miami, Florida.



Megan McQueen

Department of Theatre Arts

Megan McQueen is college assistant professor where she teaches the World of Theatre, Acting for Non-majors and Musical Theatre. She used her travel grant to attend the Broadway Teachers Workshop in New York City.



Michele Nishiguchi

Department of Biology

Dr. Michele Nishiguchi is a Regents Professor and has received over \$4 million in funded grants. She will use her travel grant to attend the World Congress of Malacology meeting that will be held in Penang, Malaysia. This is an international meeting that is only held every three years.



Joe Song

Department of Computer Science

Dr. Joe Song is an associate professor and he combines his education in electrical engineering. He will use his travel grant to attend joint conferences in Santa Fe on Keystone Noncoding RNAs and Cancer.

Travel Grants



Emily Johnson

Department of Geological Sciences

Dr. Emily Johnson is an assistant professor and teaches courses like Subduction Zone Magmatism, Volcanology and Introductory Geology. She will use her travel grant to attend the annual American Geophysical Union meeting in San Francisco, California. Here she will meet with over 23,000 other geologists from around the world.



Feifei Li

Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry

Dr. Feifei Li is an assistant professor and her current research interests lie broadly in inorganic transition metal chemistry. She will use her travel grant to take graduate students on field trips to collect preliminary X-ray emission and absorption data at labs in Cornell and Stanford.



Harriet Kramer Linkin

Department of English

Dr. Harriet Linkin is a distinguished professor and teaches graduate seminars that include Romantic Poetry and Theory and Gothic Romanticism as well as honors program courses including Emerging Women's Writers. She will use her travel grant to present her research on the Anglo-Irish poet Mary Tighe at the University of Georgia as well at the North American Society for the Study of Romanticism Conference hosted by Berkeley.



Karen Mabry

Department of Biology

Dr. Karen Mabry is an associate professor and teaches courses for undergraduates and graduate students in Natural History of Life, Zoology, and Field Ecology. She will use her travel grant to present at the annual Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology meeting in Portland, Oregon. She will be presenting in a session named "Beyond the Mean: Biological Impacts of Changing Patterns of Temperature Variation."

Award Committee Members

Committee Members for Faculty Awards

Chair, Anne Hubbell, Associate Dean

Spencer Herrera, Languages and Linguistics

Jack Wright, Geography

Michael Hout, Psychology

Claudia Billings, Theatre Arts

Tracey Miller-Tomlison, English

Jim Murphy, Astronomy

Donovan Baily, Biology

Committee Members for Exempt Staff Awards

Chair, Anne Hubbell, Associate Dean

Michelle Montano, Interdisciplinary Studies

Mary Alice Scott, Anthropology

Silvia Marinas-Feliner, Art

Committee Members for Non-Exempt Staff Awards

Chair, Anne Hubbell, Associate Dean

Marissa Holguin, Chemistry and Biochemistry

Jay Vanegas, Languages and Linguistics

Dan Dugas, Geography

Special Thanks To

College of Arts & Sciences Student Ambassadors

Ashley Jurado, Dean's Office

Mitch Fowler, Creative Media Institute

Wil Kilroy, Department of Theatre Arts

Sherwin Lau, Creative Media Institute

Matt Reynolds, Department of Theatre Arts

Jessica Savage, Dean's Office

Outstanding Faculty Achievement Award in Research



Dr. Margaret Goehring, *Department of Art*

Dr. Margaret Goehring is an associate professor of Art History where she is a specialist on manuscript illumination and painting in France, the Netherlands and Belgium from the 14th to the 16th centuries. She has been engaged in a one-month research fellowship at Harvard Library's Dumbarton Oaks in Washington D.C. Margaret is undertaking an interdisciplinary investigation concerning the philosophy and theory of ornamentation in the late Middle Ages. Dr. Goehring was also invited to write an essay and three catalog entries for an upcoming

Netherlands exhibition that will be the first to study Flemish manuscripts from Dutch collections.

Professor Goehring has followed up the 2014 publication of her book *Space, Place and Ornament: The Function of Landscape in Franco-Flemish Manuscript Illumination*, by co-editing *Dressing the Part: Textiles as Propaganda in the Middle Ages*. Dr. Goehring's research brings notable international scope to the college and university.



Dr. Peter Houde, *Department of Biology*

Dr. Peter Houde is a professor of Avian Systematics where he established himself as a pioneer of DNA sequencing, bringing the infrastructure to campus. He helped rewrite evolutionary history, when he collaborated with the Genome 10K Project, Beijing Genome Institute and over 100 international researchers on a revolutionary study of the comparative genomics of birds. It is Professor Houde's in-depth understanding of traditional approaches in paleontology and comparative anatomy that allowed him to be one of the leading authors on the project published in

the journal *Science* in December 2014 and called "*Whole-genome analyses resolve early branches in the tree of life of modern birds.*"

The study, which involved 10 supercomputers sequencing genomes of all representations of the avian tree for three years, proved that diversification of bird species occurred as a result of the asteroid that caused the extinction of the dinosaurs rather than gradually over millions of years.

Dr. Houde has subsequently been a co-author on two more derivative papers that follow up on the initial results. The results of these projects will drive research in Dr. Houde's laboratory, and laboratories around the world, for years to come.

Travel Grants



Sandra Deshors

Department of Languages & Linguistics

Dr. Sandra Deshors is an assistant professor of Linguistics and French. She will use her travel grant to attend the 37th Annual International Computer Archive of Modern and Medieval English Conference in Hong Kong.



Daniel Dugas

Department of Geography

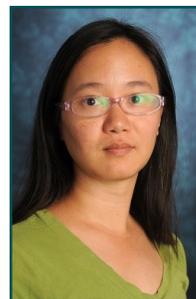
Dr. Daniel Dugas is an assistant professor and he teaches Geography of the Natural Environment and Geomorphology, among others. He will use his travel grant to attend the Association of American Geographers annual meeting in San Francisco where he will speak about research conducted on the newly designated Desert Peaks National Monument.



Manal Hamzeh

Department of Interdisciplinary Studies

Dr. Hamzeh is an associate professor and teaches Transnational Feminism, Arab-Muslim Feminisms, and Women & Revolution. She will use her travel grant to attend the Chicago release of the animated short film *The Four Hijabs*, one of several projects based on Hamzeh's book *DeVeiling Pedagogies: Muslim Girls and the Hijab Discourse* (2012).



Lily Hoang

Department of English

Lily Hoang is an assistant professor and associate department head in the English Department where she teaches creative and fiction writing. An award-winning author, Lily will use her travel grant to spend a week in St. Petersburg, Russia researching traditional Russian fairy tales, with an emphasis on translation of oral folk tales into ballet.

Travel Grants



Carol Campbell

Department of Geography

Dr. Carol Campbell is an associate professor and she will use her travel grant to visit Bandelier National Monument where she will inventory bird populations as part of bioblitz, a citizen inventory for the National Park Service Centennial.



Ramesh Chinnasamy

Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry

Dr. Ramesh Chinnasamy is a college assistant professor where he teaches Organic Chemistry. Dr. Chinnasamy will use his travel grant to attend the American Chemical Society national meeting in Philadelphia.



Tauna Cole-Dorn

Department of Art

Tauna Cole-Dorn is an assistant professor and is the primary foundation instructor teaching Drawing I and II, and 2-D Design. She will use her travel grant to participate in a collaborative 6-person exhibit entitled "Casting Indra's Net" curated by Rie Palkovic, NMSU alumni and art professor at Big Bend Community College, Moses Lake, Washington.



Michael DeMers

Department of Geography

Dr. Michael DeMers is a professor and he teaches GIS courses. Dr. DeMers will use his travel grant to visit a university in Athens where he has been invited to collaborate on opportunities involving spatial information theory.

Outstanding Faculty Achievement Award in Outreach



Kwanshun Lau, Creative Media Institute

Kwanshun "Sherwin" Lau is an assistant professor in the Creative Media Institute where he is known for having diverse talents in filmmaking. His outreach starts at home by partnering with CMI faculty member Mitch Fowler to produce videos for College of Arts & Sciences events such as Starry Night and the Faculty and Staff Awards. He often employs students in his work, which helps them grow and expand their resumes.

Sherwin has created award-winning films for multiple non-profit organizations focused on orphan care, adoption, and at-risk young men and women. One of the highlights of this work is his collaboration with the state Children Youth & Families Department, the Southwest Institute for Family and Child Advocacy, and the New Mexico Children's Justice Act Advisory Group on a film to train educators and providers to recognize and report on suspected instances of neglect or abuse. The film received a Silver Telly Award, the highest honor from TellyAwards.



M. Lois Stanford, Department of Anthropology

Dr. M. Lois Stanford is an associate professor, and since 2010, she has served as chair of the Board of Directors of La Semilla Food Center, a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization that works with youth and families to create community gardens, construct greenhouses and launch educational projects and community food assessment in the El Paso del Norte region of the U.S.-Mexico border. La Semilla was founded with a Kellogg Foundation grant and is operated by three co-directors. Stanford was instrumental in

developing the food center's newest project, that was funded with a USDA Community Food Projects grant.

Dr. Stanford has incorporated the scholarships of engagement, teaching and integration in her work at La Semilla. The partnership with the university involves teaching, graduate and undergraduate research projects, and employment placement for Anthropology graduates. Lois developed and advises the undergraduate supplemental major and minor in Sustainable Development and the graduate minor in Food Studies. Many anthropology students have worked, completed internships, and volunteered for this organization, gaining hands-on experience in the field of applied agricultural anthropology. Stanford's work has instilled a deep commitment to local food systems, food security, and food traditions in her students.

Outstanding Faculty Achievement Award in Teaching



Dr. Brian Hampton, *Department of Geological Sciences*

Dr. Brian Hampton is an assistant professor of Sedimentology and Stratigraphy where he is known for his teaching style, dedication, and sincere interest in students at all levels. Since joining the faculty in 2013, Professor Hampton teaches four classes a semester in all levels of the department and graduate courses in tectonics and petroleum geology. Students appreciate this because it is engaging and covers students with different learning styles, and it helps to increase understanding and retention.

Brian spent two consecutive weekends camping with students in the Guadalupe Mountains because he felt 26 students was too large a group to allow for time in the field with each student so he ran the field trip twice. Dr. Hampton is known for making time for students who drop by his office and going out of his way to make sure they understand the material. It doesn't matter if a student is in a geology class for a semester or in the program for several years, an undergraduate major, or a graduate student; he deeply cares about their success and will take the time to do everything he can to ensure it.



Dr. Fumi Arakawa, *Department of Anthropology*

Dr. Fumi Arakawa is an assistant professor and the Director of the University Museum. He is an archaeologist who specializes in the prehistory of the American Southwest, prehistoric migration, geo-archaeology, lithic artifact sourcing, and the compositional analysis of Southwestern ceramics. A synergy has developed between Arakawa's teaching, scholarship, service and outreach that benefits all level of students taking his courses and that includes general education, lower division undergraduates and upper division graduate students. His pedagogies have expanded into the informal learning of outreach through the museum education programs aimed at K-12 school children and their teachers and Saturday Family Workshops.

Dr. Arakawa has helped students obtain prestigious internships at archaeological centers and government agencies in the southwest. The University Museum also provides internships for students. He takes students on field trips to visit area sites such as the archaeological quarry site near A-Mountain, as well archaeological tours and field schools in the Southwest region. Professor Arakawa earns high marks on evaluation forms and is known for his positive attitude and demeanor in the classroom that encourages and engages students and makes them feel like they can be successful.

Travel Grants



Francisco Alatorre

Department of Criminal Justice

Dr. Francisco Alatorre is an assistant professor and he teaches introductory classes, policy analysis and juvenile justice system courses. He will use his travel grant to continue his research project on homeless women through collaboration with the Society of St. Vincent de Paul/Ozanam Manor in Phoenix, Arizona.



Fumi Arakawa

Department of Anthropology

Dr. Fumi Arakawa is an assistant professor and the Director of the University Museum. He is an archaeologist who specializes in the prehistory of the American Southwest. He will use his travel grant to help conduct an archaeological project at South Diamond Creek Pueblo in the Gila National Forest.



Christopher Brown

Department of Geography

Dr. Christopher Brown is Department Head for the Department of Geography where he is also Director of the Spatial Applications and Research Center. He will use his travel grant towards research on the Tijuana River Watershed located in the San Diego-Tijuana section of the U.S.-Mexico border.



Marieka Brown

Department of English

Marieka Brown is an associate college professor and teaches in the Intensive English Program. She will use her travel grant to attend the Conference on College Composition and Communication in Houston, Texas, where she will learn more about "Writing Strategies for Action."

International Engagement



Ilana Lapid, Creative Media Institute

Ilana Lapid is an assistant professor and seeks to create opportunities for students to learn, create, and connect with other students from around the world. Her most recent completed project is a short film called “*La Catrina*” (2015) that is set on the U.S.-Mexico border and centers around farm worker Caterina who is mourning her husband. The film is one of 31 selected worldwide for the 2016 Women in Film & Television International Short Film Showcase. Lapid’s 2009

short film “*Red Mesa*” also focused on a U.S.-Mexico border setting and won the Best Short Film prize at the 2010 New Mexico Filmmakers Showcase, as well as New Mexico Centennial Award. It was also named Best Short Film at the 2009 Los Angeles Latino International Film Festival.

Professor Lapid created the History of Cinema and Border Cinema Around the World courses. Through the Faculty Led International Program (FLIP) she developed the Documentary Filmmaking in Belize course and took students to Belize during the Spring 2013 and 2014. She has been nominated for the 2015 Patricia Christmore Faculty Teaching Award and the 2015 NMSU *Campus Globalization Award* for twice leading and developing the Belize FLIP courses, designing and teaching border cinema courses, and establishing a relationship with the National University of Theater and Film in Romania.



Jon Hunner, Department of History

Dr. Jon Hunner is a Professor in the History Department where his research and teaching interests are centered on atomic history, public history, the state of New Mexico, the National Park Service and the United States. After a family visit to Africa to visit his son who was in the Peace Corps, he started the Global Connections series in 2011, providing faculty members with an opportunity to share their international experiences. Last fall, Jon shared his experiences visiting

Alaska in a Global Connections presentation he called, “Alaska from Kenai to Denali,” which included a presentation of the native cultures of Alaska. While the New Mexico Department of Cultural Affairs sought a permanent director, Dr. Hunner was called upon to serve as the interim director in 2014. He oversaw the Palace of the Governors and its Photo Archive, the New Mexico History Museum, the Fray Angélico Chavez History Library, and the Native American Vendors Program.

His service to the state was fresh off the heels of commemorating the state Centennial in 2012 with several events including a series of four lectures held on campus that covered New Mexico history from pre-European to the 21st Century called, “From Sun Watchers to Star Chasers: An Overview of New Mexico’s History.”

Manasse Scholar



Brook Milligan, Department of Biology

Dr. Brook Milligan is a professor of Evolutionary Genetics in the Biology Department, Director of the NMSU Computational Biology and Informatics Facility, and Director of the NMSU Conservation Genomics Laboratory. Throughout his career as population geneticist, Dr. Milligan has strived to uphold the highest standards of scientific integrity and to address challenges that bridge basic science and societal relevance. Those challenges are centered on converting genetic data into useful information, and have

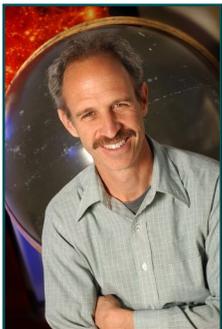
led to some of his greatest contributions in both science and society.

If citations stand as a measure of contribution significance, then Dr. Milligan’s record is stellar. His most cited paper, which outlines how to make use of an important class of genetic markers for a broad range of population genetic analyses, has received over 2,000 citations. Eight other papers on genetics have received over 100 citations. The journal *Nature* conducted an analysis that revealed most scientists can expect, at most, only one paper to accrue 100 or more citations.

If acknowledgement by the National Academy of Science is a measure of a researcher’s contributions to society, then his selection as a highly prestigious Jefferson Science Fellow, the first from the state of New Mexico, reflects Dr. Milligan’s position as a highly respected scientist. The academy seeks individuals who have broad scientific vision, are excellent communicators, and are able to foster meaningful connections with policy makers and government officials to create bridges between science and policy arenas. As a Jefferson Fellow and resident at the US State Department, Dr. Milligan was able to use genetic information as a powerful tool for science diplomacy and combating organized international crime, such as the use of illegal wildlife poaching to fund terrorists. Milligan’s teaching efforts seek to merge engaging scientific material with writing, critical thinking and problem solving. He has partnered with ICT to improve the campus scientific community’s computing abilities through a NSF initiative.

The culmination of Dr. Milligan’s contributions has led to a Manasse Scholar which he will use to continue his work of linking the science of genetics to the benefit of society. He imagines a database of genetic information so comprehensive that any DNA sample entered will reveal the genus and species, as well as specific geographic origin. Having this information in portable, handheld DNA sequencing devices would allow field acquisition and analysis. The geneticist imagines bringing such a device to Nepal to sequence Bengal Tigers so scientists can map their habitat and designate parks to protect them. It could also lead to improvements to the Nepalese people who currently live in one of the world’s poorest countries.

Outstanding Department Head



Jon Holtzman

Department of Astronomy

Dr. Jon Holtzman has been the department head for the Astronomy Department since 2011, and a faculty member since 1995. He is known for being involved in a variety of activities including teaching, research, service, outreach, administration, and keeping the network of 25+ Linux computers running and up to date. He played a leading role in securing the department and university's role in the fourth phase of the Sloan Digital Sky Survey (SSDS-IV) conducted at Apache Point Observatory (APO). Dr. Holtzman also negotiated a consortium of stakeholders to continue operating the Dunn Solar Telescope in Sunspot, New Mexico. He serves as the lead scientist for the data pipelines for the APOGEE-II survey, which is part of the SSDS-IV project. He serves as chair of the departmental Telescope Committee that awards use of a 3.5m telescope at APO. He has also played a leading role in the rehabilitation of the A-Mountain Observatory, turning it into a fully robotic facility and securing funding support and involvement of the major Amateur Astronomy Society in the world.

Professor Holtzman maintains an active research program that includes the involvement and supervision of graduate students. He worked with the college and donor Dr. William Webber to establish the William Webber Voyager Scholarship that will recruit and support Astronomy graduate students. He has played an active and supportive role in growing the Solar Astronomy PhD program.

Dr. Holtzman has been instrumental in shaping the growth and long-term success of the department by creating a multi-year structure of course offerings to manage enrollment fluctuations, assessing curriculum, and implementing a standardized structure of Independent Research course offerings. He secured two new faculty positions, bringing new research areas and a fresh perspective to course offerings. He recently taught a new graduate course on Astrostatistics, a growing field desired by employers.

The department head's office is considered to have a friendly atmosphere and attitude, and availability to discuss issues. He is flexible and willing to try new things. Jon has been active in securing staff recognition, including the APO staff, through awards.

Course Release Awards



James Rice, Department of Sociology

Dr. James Rice is an associate professor and he researches Environmental Sociology, International Political Economy, Technology and Society, and Medical Sociology. For the last four years, he has researched the institutional and organizational dynamics underlying the mistakes and misconduct of the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) in relation to atmospheric atomic detonations conducted at the Nevada Test Site in the 1950s. With his course release, Dr. Rice will finish his book manuscript entitled *Downwind of the Atomic State: Continental Atmospheric Testing, Radioactive Fallout, and Organizational Misconduct, 1951-1962*.



Igor Dolgov, Department of Psychology

Dr. Igor Dolgov is an engineering psychologist and an associate professor. He is the Primary Investigator at the Perception, Action, and Cognition, in Mediated, Artificial, and Naturalistic Environments (PACMANe) Laboratory. Dr. Dolgov has collaborated with the Physical Sciences Laboratory (PSL) since 2009 examining human factors of unmanned aircraft systems (UAS), which was funded by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). He will use his course release in the next FAA funding stage of the UAS

projects: recommending certification and training criteria for crew members operating large UAS, and competing to have NMSU designated a Center for Excellence for Human Performance and Technical Training.



Tad Connor, Department of Government

Dr. Thaddieus "Tad" Connor is an assistant professor, his areas of specialization include Tribal Governance and Administration, Education Policy, and Intergovernmental Relations. He is interested in questions concerning public management and collaborative governance, with a focus on the role of tribes. Dr. Connor will use his course release to design and implement a survey of tribal and county sheriff's officers in the United States that work with Native American communities in coordinating law enforcement

responsibilities. The survey is the first of its kind and so represents a gap in the data on law enforcement capacity and crime rates in Native and non-Native communities.

Community Partners

La Clínica de Familia

As a federally recognized Community Health Center, La Clínica de Familia (LCDF) began in 1976 by providing migrant health services. LCDF continues to serve a large proportion of Southern New Mexico's low-income population, and a majority of the Spanish speaking population. They have six sites spread across various counties of Southern New Mexico and provide a full range of medical services including Family Practice, Dentistry, Women's Health, Behavioral Health, and Early Child Headstart on the NMSU main campus. In the Fall of 2013, the Department of Languages and Linguistics initiated a partnership with LCDF to provide Service Learning (SL) opportunities for students enrolled in key 300-level Spanish courses. Through partnership with LCDF, students have provided critical interpretations in medical contexts to facilitate access to care. Others have translated documents outlining the rules and procedures in Early Headstart and have translated pamphlets to increase awareness to the community regarding educational services provided by LCDF. The benefits of SL are seen also in the reflections of the students as they grow in awareness and confidence of their linguistic abilities, their knowledge of their community and the course material, and the important role they play in applying their linguistic skills selflessly in service of others.

Third Judicial District Court

Juvenile Drug Court Program

The Juvenile Drug Court Program (JDC) is an alternative sentencing program for juvenile offenders with drug-related offenses. Staff at JDC work toward reducing recidivism and substance abuse among their young participants and assist in providing them with problem solving skills, independent living skills, and opportunities for obtaining a better education and gaining employment. The NMSU Criminal Justice Youth Mentoring group has partnered with this agency to assist in the rehabilitative process of its young clients. The Youth Mentoring group's director is Mike Tapia, Assist. Professor in the Criminal Justice Department, and the 12 undergraduate and graduate students in the group serve as mentors to drug court youth in a volunteer capacity. Based on the success of this new collaboration, Dr. Tapia has written the JDC into several federal grant proposals to fund the mentoring program in order to improve its structure and sustainability.

Department Awards

Department Diversity Award

Department of Anthropology

The Anthropology faculty, staff, and students at NMSU are deeply committed to advancing the understanding the human condition in all of its diversity, both in the present and the past. For the Department of Anthropology, diversity does not merely enrich our academic endeavors; it is our academic endeavor. We recognize that the multiple dimensions of diversity exist not as static categories into which individuals are placed, but as intersections among culture, race, ethnicity, nationality, class, gender, sexuality, religion, language, age, and ability. Multidimensional identities of individuals do not simply co-exist. They are value-laden, historically contingent, and meaningfully constituted. As anthropologists we recognize that our society confers power and privilege on those who hold identities that reinforce dominant national ideologies and social hierarchies, while simultaneously marginalizing and erasing others. Institutions of higher education play a large role in mediating these disparities, and even if we still have a long way to go, we are moving forward.

Department Student Advising & Retention Award

Department of Journalism & Mass Communications

Department of Journalism and Mass communications is very unique because under the department, there are five different small programs, such as broadcasting, advertising, public relations, news editorial and photojournalism. Each program has its own unique curriculum for students to take. Each program is run by full time faculty who have long industrial experiences. Students learn most skills they need in the real world, through small hands-on classes. Students have an opportunity to publish their works on one of the following media outlets, News22, Spanish News22, Documentary photo shooters.com, and Kokopelli-nmsu.com. This uniqueness has helped this department to become one of the best program in southwestern area for more than 50 years.

Outstanding Staff Awards



Dana Halsall

College of Arts & Sciences

Dana is an administrative assistant and she is known for providing outstanding service to departments, the college and students. Dana is ever pleasant and cheerful as she greets students and visitors. She is always willing to take on new tasks, develop new skills and take on new responsibilities. Whether she is assisting a confused student or a multi-million

dollar grant recipient, Dana treats everyone with respect and excises tact and discretion. When Dana is not seeing to the smooth operations of the Dean's Office, she enjoys spending time with Jon and their dogs in their scenic home at the base of the Organ Mountains.



Patricia Vargas

Department of Government

Patricia Vargas is an administrative assistant and she has served students and faculty as the cornerstone of the Government Department for the last 18 years. Known for her warm, kind and welcoming demeanor, Pat has met the challenges faced by the department over the last five years as faculty retired, new professors were hired, and she took on additional

duties when a part-time assistant resigned. Pat and her family are long-term Mesilla Valley natives and maintain cultural traditions such as the annual Virgen de Guadalupe pilgrimage, making tortillas and biscochitos, and performing in a family musical group.



Nancy Howell

Department of Journalism & Mass Communications

Nancy Howell is an administrative assistant and she is considered the heart and soul of the department by being patient, kind and open-minded. Nancy competently performs her duties including managing budgets and conducting inventory. She served as an international ambassador when the department hosted Chinese students and helped them settle in to the university and community. Most weekends are spent with her son,

daughter-in-law and their four children in Alamogordo participating in activities such as sports and hip-hop dancing.

Outstanding Staff Awards



Abby Train

Department of Math

Dr. Abby Train is the Director of the Math Success Center in the Department of Mathematical Sciences where her promotion of collegiality and civility enables the center and department to serve NMSU effectively. She is committed to the development of students as lifelong learners and responsible citizens

who value rigor, as well as being a role model for young women considering professional and technical careers. Dr. Train handles course scheduling, evaluations of graduate assistants, instituted pedagogical changes, and does outreach to high schools.



Lucille Casas

College of Arts & Sciences

Lucille Casas is an accountant for the College of Arts and Sciences where she is dedicated and committed to serving students and faculty and has been for the past eight years. She began her career at the university as a student employee in 1995. She has also worked at the University Museum, University Financial Aid and

Scholarship Services, Office of Grants and Contracts, and the Biology Department. She earned her Bachelor of Accountancy from NMSU in 2012. Lucille has been married to her husband Ruben for twelve years and has four children.



Marisa Sage

Department of Art

Marisa Sage is the director of the University Art Gallery where she works to allow the community to feel they are part of the gallery by having exhibits that help visitors appreciate and understand the process of creating and exhibiting art. The gallery collections are well organized and cared for and Marisa's efforts resulted in the acquisition of the Donald Gonzalez collection of WWI and WWII

propaganda posters. Prior to coming to the university in 2014, Marisa was a New York native where she earned her BFA in photography and Master of Digital Arts. She established a contemporary gallery in Williamsburg, New York that held more than 65 exhibitions over six years.