



SEPTEMBER 2026 **FACULTY** **NEWSLETTER**

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Dean and Interim Chancellor Update

Dr. Laura Musselwhite

WELCOME TO FALL SEMESTER!

As I write this, the fall census enrollment numbers have come out. We are slightly down in headcount (2,409 this year as compared to 2,417 last year on this date); however, we are up in student credit hours generated (12,234 this year as compared to 12,101 last year on this date). Additionally, we are up in Valencia degree-seekers (630 as compared to 557 last year on this date). Remember that last fall, we were up about 50 degree-seekers as well. So, we are moving in the right direction! Lastly, we are down in ABQ students (867 as compared to 933 last year on this date). I do not feel badly about this at all because those numbers are not sustainable, and we should not rely on them. I feel like I can see those extra seventy-three VA degree-seekers on campus, with more foot traffic and presence.

Even though the term has just started, we will begin planning for spring soon! Please work with your chair on the spring schedule. Registration will open on November 2.

Remember that Hispanic Heritage Month kicks off on September 15, with a celebration in the main courtyard from 11am to 1pm, with events running through October 28. Also, the opening reception for the Stephanie Lerma art exhibit in the gallery is September 17 from 4pm to 6pm. (The show runs from September 4 through October 9.)

Lastly, I want to welcome Michael Carriere as the new manager for the Next Steps: Adult Education program. The committee interviewed four candidates, and Michael was by far the most qualified. He has been acting as the interim manager since Susan Yasenka left on June 30, and he has many years of experience with our program. Congratulations Michael!

FAFDM Update

Dr. Laura Musselwhite

THE FINE ARTS, FILM, AND DIGITAL MEDIA DIVISION

has been seeing some improvements over in the Business and Technology building. Thank you for your patience as the work wraps up. Most areas are completed, although not everything may be moved back into place yet. We are waiting on some lighting in the Ceramics studio and some additional ventilation, but things should be finished soon. We moved the Ceramics classes to second eight weeks, just to be safe.

Alexa Wheeler currently has a solo exhibition up at ARC Gallery in Chicago

The show, entitled "kept + carried," examines how care is inherited, performed, and remembered through the ordinary objects and rituals of domestic life. Drawing from family photographs, German folk traditions, household vessels, and stories gathered through community participation, the work considers the labor historically assigned to women: preserving, nourishing, mending, witnessing, and carrying memory forward.

Layered textiles, translucent surfaces, printmaking, embroidery, sewing, and found materials function as an evolving archive where personal histories intersect with collective experience. Architectural forms, fences, jars, utensils, and suspended threads become metaphors for protection, containment, connection, and resilience. Audio recordings gathered through witness extend the work beyond the gallery, inviting visitors to contribute their own stories. Together, these works ask how acts of care become records of belonging that endure across generations. Exhibition dates are September 4 through 25.



gefäße kartenlegung 1, 34 x 12 in

Currently in the UNM-Valencia Fine Arts Gallery is "tender," by artist Stephanie Lerma. The show runs from September 4 through October 9, with the opening reception on September 17 from 4pm to 6pm. The upcoming show will be Comanche Highway: Sounding Genizari in Contemporary New Mexico, which will run from September 28 through October 16.

More FAFDM on the next page.



tender

Stephanie Lerma

Sept 4
-
Oct 9

Reception:
September 17, 2026, from
4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.



UNM-Valencia Campus Fine Art Galleries

280 La Entrada Rd
Los Lunas, NM, 87031

For more details and updates about these events, please visit valencia.unm.edu

UNM-VALENCIA CAMPUS FINE ARTS GALLERIES

Fall 2026 Art Exhibition Schedule



SEPT 4 **tender**
-
OCT 9 Stephanie Lerma
Reception: Sept 17th,
4:00pm - 6:00pm

SEPT 28 **Comanche Highway**
-
OCT 16 Sounding Genizari in Contemporary
New Mexico



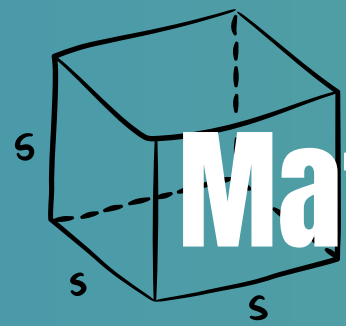
OCT 19 **Dia de Los Muertos: Ofrendas**
NOV 2 **Colectivas Exhibition**

OCT 28 **Dia de Los Muertos Celebration**
presented from Noon-2:00pm

NOV 13 **When Music & Art Come Together**
-
DEC 12 Annual Faculty and Staff Art Exhibition
Reception: Nov. 19th, 4:00pm-6:00pm

For more details and updates about these events, please visit valencia.unm.edu





Mathematics, Engineering, Computer Science Division Update

Andy Taylor

$$V = s^3$$

FACULTY ROSTER

Computer Science Faculty

- Hamim Md Adal, Assistant Professor of Math and Computer Science
- Andisheh Dadashi, Associate Professor of Computer Science
- J'Sean Tyler, Adjunct Professor of Computer Science

Engineering Faculty

- Chandan Kumar, Adjunct Professor of Engineering
- Saulo Orizaga, Mathematics/Engineering Adjunct Professor

Mathematics Faculty

- Precious Andrew, Assistant Professor of Mathematics
- Michael Gonzales, Assistant Professor of Mathematics
- Cynthia (Cindi) Goodman, Assistant Professor of Mathematics
- Andy Taylor, Chair, Assistant Professor of Mathematics
- Nicklos Lucas, Adjunct Professor of Mathematics
- Michelle Godfrey, Adjunct Professor of Mathematics
- James Farslow, Adjunct Professor of Mathematics
- Edric Chavez, Adjunct Professor of Mathematics
- Jacob McKenney, Adjunct Professor of Mathematics

Division Personnel Changes

Arrivals

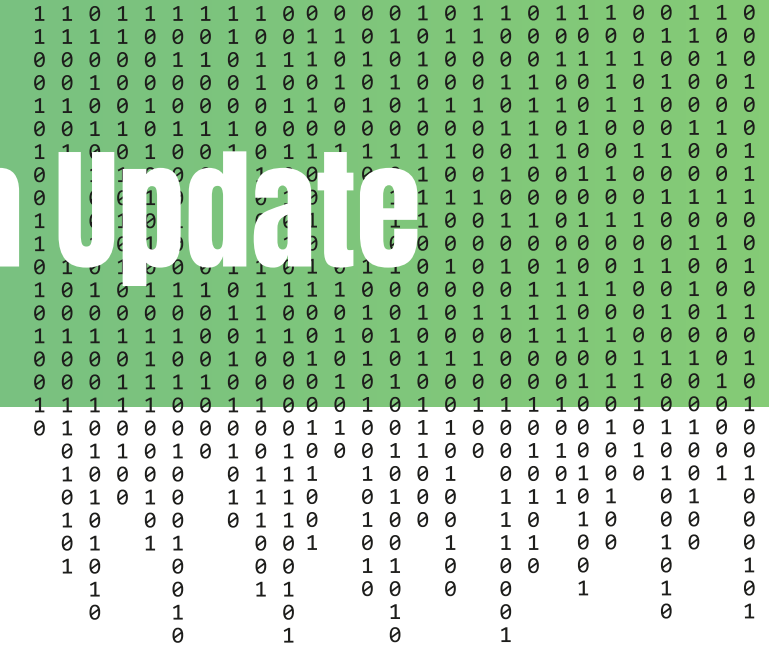
- Welcome to Dr. Chandan Kumar, joining us for the first time in FA26 as an Adjunct Professor of Engineering.
- Welcome (back!) to Michelle Godfrey, who joined us in Spring 2026 as an Adjunct Professor of Mathematics.
- Welcome to Dr. Saulo Orizaga, who joined us in Spring 2026 as an Adjunct Professor of Mathematics and Engineering.
- Welcome to J'Sean Tyler, joining our division in FA26 as an Adjunct Professor of Computer Science.

Departures

- Professor Clifton Murray retired from our campus in Spring 2026. Thank you so much, Clifton, for your service to our division and our students. (Note: Picture included below from May 2026 at Clifton's retirement party)

Tenure and Promotion

- Precious Andrew and Andy Taylor will be submitting their dossiers and going up for tenure and promotion to Associate Professor this academic year.



UPDATES FROM SPRING, SUMMER, AND FALL 2026

Spring 2026

- Precious Andrew presented at the CNM CTL conference in January 2026 on “Seeing our Cultures through the Lens of Algebra: An Innovative College Algebra Assignment,” and attended the NCTM conference in Indianapolis, Indiana, in February 2026.
- Cynthia Goodman presents on the Pedagogical Partnership Program at the 68th Annual WSSA Conference in March 2026.
- Andisheh Dadashi won the “Open Communication and Assessment” Teaching Excellence Award through CTL in April 2026.
- Pi Day was celebrated in March 2026.

Summer and Fall 2026

- Michael Gonzales and Andy Taylor attended a Summer Institute for Active Learning in Calculus at Chandler-Gilbert Community College in Chandler, Arizona from 8/02–8/05. They, along with 40 other community college mathematics faculty from all over the country, were sponsored by the Gates Foundation through the American Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges (AMATYC), to be a part of Project Delta. They’ll be working with several other faculty in a CCOL through Summer 2027 in order to integrate new active learning techniques into their Calculus 1 courses and improve student success rates.
- Michelle Godfrey revamped our Math 100 assessments in a redesign aimed at further improving student success rates in Math 1215.
- Michael Gonzales and Andy Taylor will be hosting a joint conference at UNM-Valencia with the Mathematical Association of America (MAA) SW and NMMATYC in Spring 2027.



π day



Humanities Division Update

Ana June

NOVELLAS & IMPROV & KITTENS & DONUTS & GIGANTIC BEANS & PRAXIS CIRCLES & A PUBLIC READING....OH MY

LAUREN PERRY-RUMMEL

received the Distinguished Faculty Award at CNM on Friday, September 11! 😊 She also got a new kitten named Princess Donut.



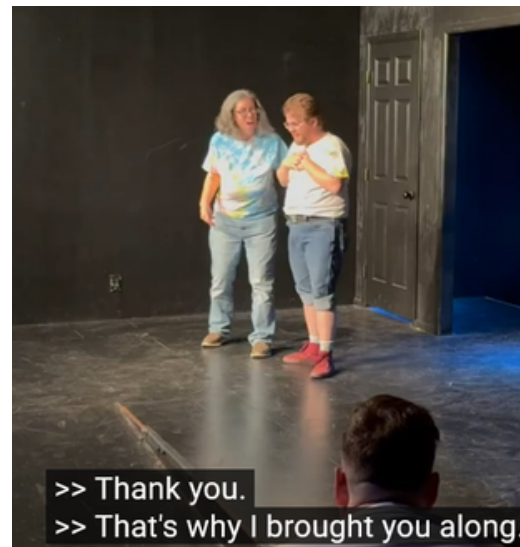
JUSTIN BENDELL

"I am finding moments of joy in the classroom this semester despite the heavy feeling in my heart about our national slide toward fascism. On that note, I will be presenting (with Ana) at the TYCA-SW conference in Austin this October on the topic of anti-fascist pedagogy. Also, don't forget to reach out to me with union questions at VPValencia@uaunm.org. I'm here to support/uplift ALL Valencia faculty and assure that their issues are addressed. Lastly, I do not have a new kitten named Princess Donut, but I kind of wish I did."



ANICCA COX

is on research leave and somehow is busier than ever. When not doing community engaged research (not on her original research plan but life had other ideas) she's just obsessed with her garden. This year's star: the crazy long beans. They came from donated seeds at the Valencia Campus garden (yes, this is a plug for everyone to get involved and support that).

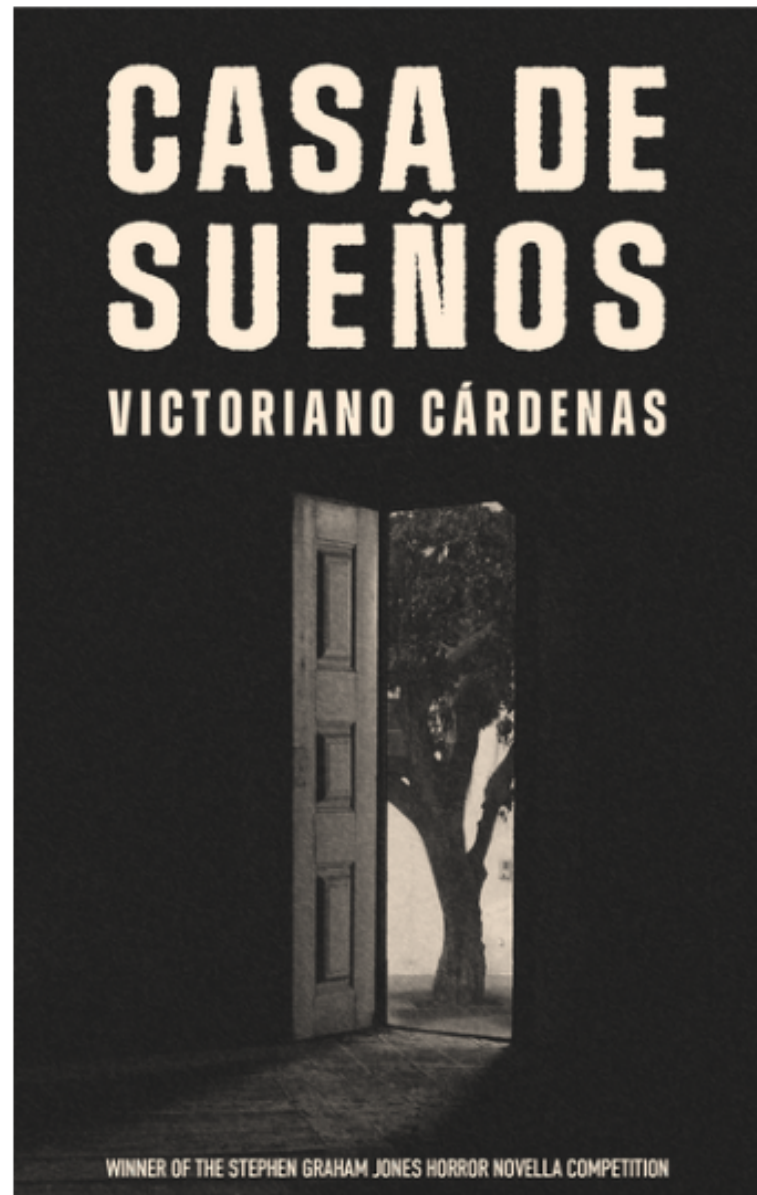


PATRICIA GILLIKIN

continued with another improv class at The Box Performance Space and Improv Theatre, and she performed in a student showcase on August 1. She's found improv skills and activities useful in her classroom and the Writing Center's Language Conversation Group. She also led improv warm up games at the August work party at the UNM-Valencia Campus Community Garden.

VICTORIANO CÁRDENAS

is the Winner of Stephen Graham Jones Horror Novella Competition! His novella, *Casa de Sueños*, should be published by Subito Press soon. He writes: “It was really lovely working with my editor, Rachel Wood, and I feel even better about the novella now than when I won the contest. And I have a cover design!” In other milestones, Victoriano’s pup Dio turned 2 on September 13! “So far, Dio knows how to sit, shake, lie down, heel, jump, and stay. He can bark on command, too! I really like Ronnie James Dio so Dio’s bark command word is SHOUT! I am so happy to have my stinky little guy, and I’m even more happy he’s (almost) out of the crazy puppy/velociraptor stage!”



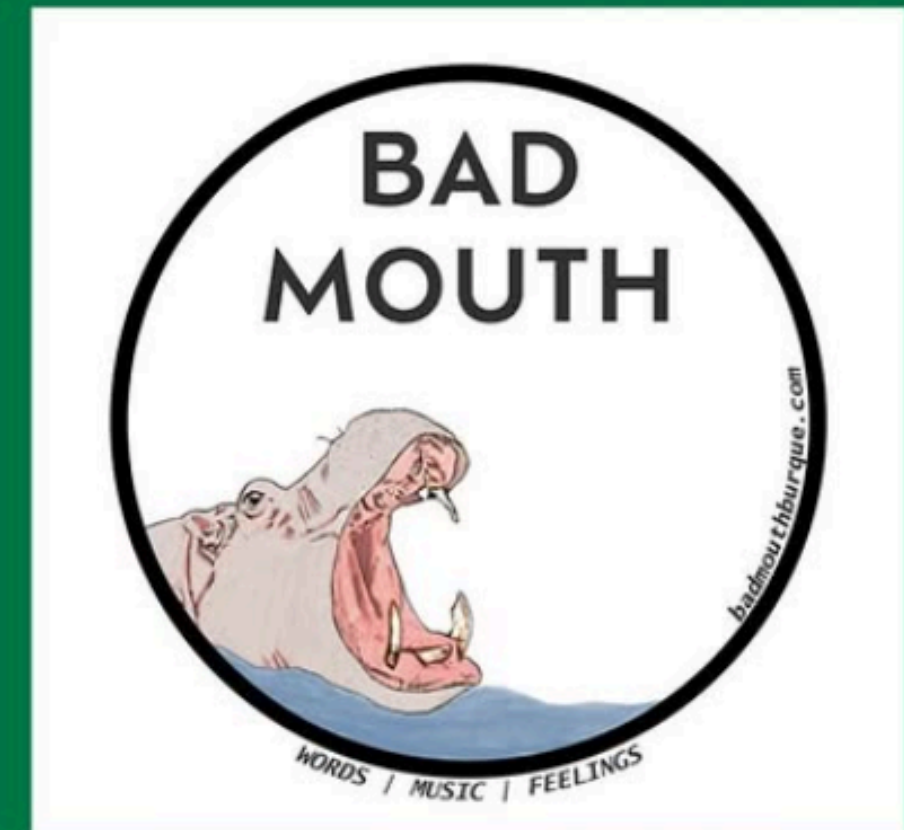
ANA JUNE

has a better handle on the Chair stuff, and part of finding a good balance has been to teach a 2H class and try to get the major admin stuff done during the first 8 weeks. This summer, she planted the biggest garden she’s ever attempted —25 tomato plants, 25 peppers, a bunch of potatoes, sweet potatoes, beans....and put in a big greenhouse for year-round production. She’s looking forward to reading at Bad Mouth on September 19th with three other truly incredible artists. In early October, she’s heading to Austin with Justin to conduct a Praxis Circle on anti-fascist teaching and then in November, she’s looking forward to a writing retreat with author Ariel Gore in T or C.



BAD MOUTH WORDS & MUSIC
SEPTEMBER 19TH, 2026

Mariposa Fund



FEATURING JOHNNY HORTON, ANA
JUNE, & MARIE LANDAU,
WITH MUSIC BY MAURO WOODY

q-Staff theater
400 Broadway Blvd SE
7pm (doors open at 6:30)
Donations will go to support
THE MARIPOSA

Tutoring Services Update

Shalaine Castillo and Patricia Gillikin

UPDATED WEBPAGES

The Pasos Resource Center would like to introduce you to our new and improved tutoring websites! Our “home” page can be found at the [Tutoring Services website link](#). You can find more information regarding our STEM Tutors at the [STEM Tutoring website link](#), and more information regarding our Writing Consultants at the [Writing Center tutoring website link](#).

TRACCLOUD

Through our updated webpages, your students can [Schedule an Appointment](#) through our new scheduling system called TracCloud, where access is granted using their UNM login credentials. In their TracCloud dashboard, students can schedule appointments for STEM tutoring, writing tutoring, and peer mentoring. They can also view and print upcoming and previous appointments – which could be useful for some of you who are willing to offer extra credit for tutoring support.

We encourage you to encourage your students to come to Pasos and meet with one of us for more help in TracCloud navigation and any other support they may need.

We also have an instructional guide on how to sign into TracCloud for first-time users, and how to schedule an appointment. For more information, please contact Shalaine Castillo at sbucko7@unm.edu or 505.925.0689

Pasos Resource Center Guide for TracCloud First-Time Users

How to Sign In to TracCloud:

- Sign in with your UNM email and password
- Confirm contact information
- Opt in/out of text messaging from TracCloud
- Select Language Preferences for your profile

How to Book an Appointment:

- Choose desired service
- Select a Subject
- Select a Reason for the appointment
- *Optional:* Select Spanish Speaking if preferred
- Click Search button and select preferred date & time
- Choose preferred duration of appointment
- *Optional:* Provide additional information regarding appointment
- Review appointment details
- Click Confirm to save appointment
- You will receive a confirmation email with your appointment details



CONFERENCE PRESENTATION

Writing Consultant Pau Acosta-Marta and Patricia Gillikin will present with Devon Hoffman and Kathleen Pickering of the Valencia County Literacy Council (VCLC) at the 2026 NM Adult Education Conference on September 25. Their presentation, "Raíces y Brotes: A Literacy Council and Writing Center Connection," is about the ongoing collaboration between the Writing Center and VCLC. Through this work both the Writing Center and VCLC have found many points of alignment in their values--culturally responsive approaches, anti-hierarchy, and grassroots community organizing—and many ways they can learn from each other.

LATE NIGHT THURSDAYS

The Pasos Resource Center will be open until 7pm on Thursdays from September 3 through December 3 – except for Fall Break and Thanksgiving Break.

Peer Lead Soren June will be available for any peer mentoring assistance and STEM Tutor Aaron Parra-Erivez will be available for biology, chemistry, math, and Spanish tutoring support.

For more information, please contact Shalaine Castillo at sbucko7@unm.edu or 505.925.0689.

NM VALENCIA



Late Night

TUTORING

In Pasos Resource Center

September 3 - December 3

OPEN UNTIL

7PM



THURSDAYS

Closed for Fall Break and Thanksgiving Break



**2026
New Mexico
Adult Education
Conference**



Deep Roots, Broad Canopy, Endless Reach



**September 23 - 25
Sheraton
Albuquerque
Uptown**

CONVERSACIONES EN ESPAÑOL E INGLÉS DURANTE EL OTOÑO

Agosto 17 - Noviembre 30

Para practicar en español e inglés, ¡Acompáñanos en el Centro de Escritura de la UNM-Valencia! Nos reunimos los lunes de 12 a 1 durante la sesión de otoño 2026



CONVERSATIONS IN
SPANISH & ENGLISH
THIS FALL

August 17 - November 30

For practice in Spanish and English, join us in the UNM-Valencia Writing Center! We meet on Mondays from 12 to 1 during the Fall 2026 semester.



LANGUAGE CONVERSATION GROUP

For practice in Spanish and English, join us in the UNM-Valencia Writing Center! We meet on Mondays from noon to 1:00 pm.

Para practicar en español e inglés, ¡Acompáñanos en el Centro de Escritura de la UNM-Valencia! Nos reunimos los lunes de 12 a 1 durante la sesión de otoño 2026.

READING DISCUSSION GROUP

Join us for an Audre Lorde Discussion Group on Monday, September 14, from 1:00-2:00 p.m. at the UNM-Valencia Writing Center. If you can't attend in person, we will also be on Zoom. For a digital copy of the reading and/or the Zoom, email Patricia Gillikin at gillikin@unm.edu.

Únete al grupo de discusión sobre Audre Lorde, lunes, 14 de septiembre, 1:00-2:00 p.m. en el Centro de Escritura de la UNM-Valencia. Si no puede venir en persona, puede asistir por medio de Zoom. Para una copia digital de la lectura y/o enlace de Zoom, envíe un correo electrónico a Patricia Gilikin, gillikin@unm.edu.

Join us for an Audre Lorde Discussion Group

Monday, September 14, 2026
1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

UNM-Valencia Writing Center

If you can't attend in person, we will also be on Zoom. For a digital copy of the reading and/or for the Zoom link, email Patricia Gillikin at gillikin@unm.edu

Únete al grupo de discusión sobre Audre Lorde

Lunes, Septiembre 14, 2026
1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Centro de Escritura de la UNM-Valencia

Si no puede venir en persona, puede asistir por medio de Zoom. Para una copia digital de la lectura y/o enlace de Zoom, envíe un correo electrónico a Patricia Gilikin, gillikin@unm.edu



Library Update

Barbara Lovato

KAT GULLAHORN PRESENTED IN OTTOWA, ONTARIO, CANADA



Kat Gullahorn

Kat Gullahorn, MLS is co-founder of SPARK Anew, a librarian, educator, and artist whose work explores art as a system of knowledge. Guided by care and connection, she cultivates arts-integrated practices that recognize knowledge as service—fostering unity, shared inquiry, and meaningful dialogue in academic and community life.

Saturday, Aug 8

9:00 – 10:15 AM EDT

210

Art as a System of Knowledge: Arts-Integrated Inquiry in Scholarly and Professional Discourse

LIMITED

Speakers: Amalia Giebitz, Kat Gullahorn, Stephen Morris

Arts

In August 2026, Kat Gullahorn traveled to Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, to present with colleagues Amalia Giebitz and Stephen Morris at the Annual Conference of the Association for Bahá'í Studies North America. Their session, Art as a System of Knowledge, examined ACT (Arts-Integrated Creativity Training) as a model for learner engagement and a framework for creative inquiry, synthesis, and insight generation.

The presentation was well received and generated meaningful discussion among participants from diverse academic and professional fields.

The conference provided an opportunity to share innovative work originating in our region while building relationships with scholars and practitioners from across North America. The experience highlighted the value of creative, interdisciplinary approaches to learning and reinforced the positive impact that community-centered educational research can have beyond campus.

MAKE THE LIBRARY YOUR SPACE

Looking for a welcoming place to hold a class session, club meeting, study group, workshop, or campus event? The UNM-Valencia Campus Library is available for more than studying. We'd love to host you. All are encouraged to request use of library space for activities that bring the UNM community together, support learning, and build community. Scan the QR Code below to Submit a Library Space Request.

LIBRARY SERVICES

The Library offers flexible information literacy instruction tailored to your course needs, including:

- In-class or Zoom instruction
- Instructional support for online courses
- Customized Canvas modules
- Assistance identifying readings, resources, and lesson materials
- Tours of Library collections and technologies

Schedule library instruction: Email [Kat Gullahorn](#) or call 505-925-8993, or [submit an online request](#).

NEED RESEARCH HELP?

Connect with a librarian through the [UNM-Valencia Campus Library Virtual Reference Desk](#). Tuesday-Thursday, noon-2 p.m., or by appointment.
[Schedule an appointment with a librarian](#) Questions? Text us at 505-916-1647

CLASS SESSIONS | CLUB MEETINGS | STUDY GROUPS | WORKSHOPS | SPECIAL EVENTS

Have an idea?
Reserve your space today.

Submit a Library Space Request >

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1-r8JxByNY6szvXTFh5QtAs3qTjBRkuX8UmrsCfyAZes/edit?ts=6a8f335a>



COMMUNITY GAME NIGHT SEPTEMBER 23, 4-6 PM

Community Game Night returns this semester in the Library. Hosted in collaboration with the Game Design Program, each event features a different theme and prizes. On September 23, we'll mark International Day of Sign Languages with a special Community Game Night. We hope you'll stop by and celebrate the diversity of languages and communities that enrich our campus. The September theme is language and culture. Food, drinks will be provided. Students, faculty, staff, families, and community members are all welcome to join us for an evening of games, good conversation, and friendly competition - no gaming experience is required. come enjoy a little mid-week merriment with us!

ASL SOCIALS TUESDAYS IN THE LIBRARY

Build confidence. Practice ASL. Make connections. ASL Socials meets weekly on Tuesdays from 4:30pm-5:30pm to support language learning through real conversation. Come learn and connect with fellow signers in a friendly, voice-off environment. All signing levels are welcome. We will celebrate International Week of the Deaf and IDSL on Sept 23rd in the library. Save the date to join us for conversation, connection, and community.

POETRY CLUB TUESDAYS AT NOON

Curious minds wanted to join the Valencia Campus Poetry Club! The club meets every Tuesday at noon in the library for poetry, creativity, and conversation. No writing experience required.

ESL TUTORING ON THE RISE



Demand for ESL tutoring has more than doubled this year, prompting the Valencia County Literacy Council to expand services into the Library this term. VCLC is a community-based nonprofit dedicated to helping adults and families achieve their educational and literacy goals. We are proud to partner with them in support of lifelong learning throughout Valencia County.



FALL 2026

ASL Socials @ the Library
Tuesdays 4:30 –5:30 pm

Voice-off Study Group for Intro to Sign Language

A weekly voice-off ASL conversation group for our Intro to Sign Language students and surrounding signing community. Join us at the Library to practice in a safe social setting. All signers are welcome.

Come See & Sign With Us!

<http://valencia.unm.edu/library/>



DEAF CULTURE & HISTORY

SEPTEMBER • DEAF AWARENESS

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF
SIGN LANGUAGES
SEPTEMBER 23, 2026

CELEBRATE • LEARN • CONNECT

Explore our collection of books on Deaf culture,
history, language, identity, and community.

International Week of Deaf People • Sept 21–27, 2026
2026 Theme: Declaring Deaf People's Human Rights

COMMUNITY
GAME NIGHT
ON SEPT 23RD

Join The Poetry Club!

Recruiting Meetings Fall
Semester 2026:

- Every Tuesday
- At 12 noon
- In UNM-Valencia Library

Let's...

- Eat poetry
- Drink poetry
- Breathe poetry

Together!

P.S. We can't wait to meet
you!

What my
teacher
says



What the
poet
meant



Credits: Names and photos are fictionalized by
Jonathan's Internet-legendary decorative
T-shirt.



NM
VALENCIA

If you are interested please contact:

Paulina Acosta (Club Coordinator): acostap@unm.edu

Kat Gullahorn (Faculty Club Sponsor): krg@unm.edu



Faculty Assembly Meeting Agenda
Wednesday, September 16, 2026 (12:00 – 1:15 PM)
Zoom Meeting URL: <https://unm.zoom.us/j/99919954716> (Passcode: Sep26)
In-person Meeting in H101

1. Call to Order (1 min)
2. Acceptance of Agenda (1 min)
3. Approval of Minutes (1 min)
4. Interim Chancellor's / Dean of Instruction's Report - Laura Musselwhite (20 min)
5. Treasurer's Report – Kat Gullahorn (1 min)
 - Petty Cash Envelope Discussion
6. Faculty Grant Applications – Brittany Padilla (10 min)
7. Standing Committee *Introductions* (1 min per)
 - Adjunct Faculty
 - Curriculum & Assessment
 - Communications
 - Faculty Handbook
 - Online Teaching & Review
 - Professional Development
 - EIRG
 - Faculty Senate Representatives
8. New Business / Announcements
9. Adjournment



Faculty Assembly Meeting Agenda
Wednesday, April 26, 2026 (12:00 – 1:15 PM)
Zoom Meeting URL: <https://unm.zoom.us/j/95216660903> (Passcode: Apr26)
In-person Meeting in H101

1. Call to Order (1 min) Dr. Andisheh Dadashi
Meeting called to order 12:02 pm
2. Acceptance of Agenda (1 min)
Precious Andrew: Move to accept
Ana June: Seconds
3. Approval of Minutes (1 min)
Ana June: Move to accept
Kat Gullahorn: Seconds
4. Interim Chancellor Report and Dean of Instruction Report – Dr. Laura Musselwhite (20 min)
 - Thanked faculty for strong teaching and **extra efforts supporting students** this semester
 - Noted **upcoming summer activities and events**
 - **Graduation updates:**
 - Ceremonies split to reduce overcrowding
 - Nurses pinning: Thursday 5:30 PM
 - Allied Health/Adult Ed: Friday 4 PM
 - Main commencement: Friday **7 PM** (time change)
 - Faculty gather at 6:30 PM before procession
 - Speaker: **Ashley Cook** (UNM Valencia alum, now attorney)
 - **Honors Night:**
 - Next Wednesday, 5:30 PM (SEC)
 - Faculty encouraged to attend
 - **Leadership & system updates:**
 - Attended Chancellor's retreat (student systems, School of Education changes)
 - Ongoing **presidential candidate interviews**
 - **Provost search** in progress; finalists expected
 - **Statewide updates:**
 - Community college meeting covered legislative updates and dual credit discussions (no decisions yet)



- Exploring **partnership with CNM** for summer camps (possible funding available)
- Will continue to share updates as more information becomes available

5. Treasurer's Report - Dr. Piotr Filipczak (1 min)

- Faculty Executive Committee funds: **\$177.75**
- Snack fund (cash on hand): **\$78.85**
- Informal discussion about possibly using funds for a **small event or gathering** (e.g., food like burritos, cheesecake)
- No questions raised; report accepted without discussion

6. Committee Accomplishments for AY25-26 (3 min per)

- Faculty Adjunct Committee: Karen Walter
 - **No new updates** (representative absent from last meeting)
 - Committee continuing prior discussions from earlier meetings
 - **Key focus areas:**
 - Recruiting a **new committee chair for next year**
 - Improving **communication with adjunct faculty**, especially new hires
 - No confirmed decisions or outcomes reported
 - No questions from attendees
- EIRG Committee: Joshua Frank Cardenas
 - Committee held a **small meeting** and is working on **reorganizing and planning for next year**
 - Main focus: **improving coordination, hosting events, and supporting each other**
 - **Fall plans:**
 - Strong push for **welcome-back events** after the first week of classes
 - Goal: help faculty and students feel **comfortable, supported, and connected**
 - **Summer ideas:**
 - Considering a **campus event** to increase engagement during slower months
 - Aim to create **fun, informal opportunities** and attract early student involvement
 - Continuing **regular meetings and support for ongoing campus events**



- Faculty Communication Committee: Precious Andrew, Ana June
 - Ongoing work assignments:
 - Anna & Michael: **faculty newsletter**
 - Jordan Hansen: **faculty resource page**
 - Ian Burch: **listserv management**
 - **Newsletter completed** for the cycle
 - Process was **less organized than previous years**, but completed successfully
 - Team developed a **more efficient workflow:**
 - Michael handled layout/pages
 - Anna focused on design
 - Noted that newsletter production is a **significant task**, but collaboration improved the process

• Faculty Handbook Committee: Andisheh Dadashi

- **No recent meetings** held by the Faculty Handbook Committee
- Minimal activity beyond an initial email about selecting a chair
- Prior work was completed last year, but **little to no progress this semester**
- Identified need to:
 - **Reorganize the committee**
 - **Review and revise the faculty handbook**
- Possible plan:
 - Leadership restructuring
 - Andisheh may **take on chair role after sabbatical**
- Acknowledgment that updates depend partly on whether **new policies need inclusion**, but revision is still needed

7. Faculty Senate Report (5 min): Jonathan Sims

- **1% compensation increase approved**
- **UNM budget increase** anticipated
- **Library update:** Zimmerman Library received a large donation (film + written materials)
- **Leadership updates:**
 - Chancellor stepping down; **interim leadership in place (Dr. Musselwhite)**
 - Ongoing search for new chancellor
- **Faculty initiatives:**
 - New **branch campus achievement awards** created
 - **Dean evaluation criteria under revision**; volunteers requested
- **Health insurance changes:**
 - Removal of GLP-1 drug coverage (except for diabetes cases)
 - Leads to **~13% premium increase**
- **Other updates:**



- Faculty Senate committees ongoing
- Nursing policy change supports **movement from lecturer to tenure-track roles**
- Link to full minutes and meeting recording shared for more details

8. Nominations & Elections for FEC AY26-27 (15 mins)

- **Election process introduced** for Faculty Executive Committee (FEC) positions for the upcoming year
- **Automatic transition:** Piotr Filipczak will become president (no vote required)
- **Proposed slate of candidates:**
 - Kat Gullahorn → President-elect (moved from at-large)
 - Cindi Goodman → continuing as Secretary
 - Dominique Rodriguez → new at-large representative
 - Joshua Cardenas → continuing at-large
 - Karen Walter → nominated for adjunct representative
- **Adjunct representative position initially vacant;** Karen Walter nominated during meeting and accepted
- Voting conducted via **anonymous ballots (paper or Zoom poll)**
- **Discussion before voting:**
 - Appreciation expressed for current and past leadership
 - Request for candidates to share **vision and goals**
- **Candidate priorities/themes:**
 - Increase **engagement of newer/younger faculty** (Piotr)
 - Emphasize **service, collaboration, and representation** (Kat)
 - Ensure continuity and efficiency in roles (Cindi)
 - Learn governance processes and contribute (Dominique)
 - **Bridge gaps and strengthen unity** across faculty (Joshua)
- **Additional discussion:**
 - Proposal to **extend leadership terms (e.g., president to 2 years)** for continuity and effectiveness

- Voting process completed

- Faculty President-Elect/Treasurer nominees
 - Kat Gullahorn 22 Yes, 1 No, 1 Abstain
- Faculty Secretary nominees
 - Cindi Goodman 24 yes, 0 No, 0 Abstain
- Two At-Large Representatives nominees
 - Dominique Rodriguez 24 yes, 0 No, 0 Abstain
 - Joshua Frank Cardenas 22 yes, 2 No, 0 Abstain
- Adjunct Faculty Representative nominees
 - Karen Walter 24 yes, 0 No, 0 Abstain



9. New Business / Announcements

Piotr Filipczak:

- Upcoming **joint workshop** with UNM Comprehensive Cancer Center (organized with UNM Valencia)
- Event targets **~200 middle school students** from Valencia County
- **Date & time:** May 8, approximately 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM
- **Location:** UNM Valencia campus (primarily Arts & Sciences building)
- **Purpose:**
 - Educational outreach
 - Engage students in campus and learning activities
- **Volunteers needed:**
 - Help with logistics and event support
 - Opportunity for **faculty service credit**, especially for newer faculty
- **Additional details:**
 - Breakfast and lunch provided for volunteers
 - Flyer with QR code and email shared for sign-up/info
 - Timing chosen due to need for **lab/classroom access** (avoids class conflicts)

10. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned: 12:46 pm

In Attendance:

Andisheh Dadashi
 Laura Musselwhite
 Kat Gullahorn
 Dominique Rodriguez
 Precious Andrew
 Susan Yassenka
 Ian Burch
 Mindy Schwarz
 Frances Duran
 Julia So
 Anicca Cox
 Joshua Frank Cardenas
 Karen Walter
 Stephen Takach

Piotr Filipczak
 Cindi Goodman
 Ana June
 Patricia Gillikin
 Ben Flicker
 Michael Gonzales
 Justin Bendell
 Jonathan Sims
 Hamim Md Adal
 Andy Taylor
 Barbara Lovato
 Debra Venable
 Michael Carriere

A photograph of a pond in a natural setting. The pond is surrounded by dense vegetation, including tall reeds and various green shrubs. The water is calm, reflecting the sky and the surrounding greenery. The sky is overcast with grey clouds. In the foreground, there are some yellow wildflowers. The overall scene is a peaceful natural landscape.

**Whitfield Wildlife Conservation Area pond,
September 2026**