



# LOS ALAMOS

## Student Services Newsletter

DECEMBER 2025

### STUDENT GOVERNMENT PROFILE: JIMMY GURULE



The UNM-Los Alamos Student Government would like to introduce representative Jimmy Gurule.

Jimmy is majoring in pre-engineering, and he plans to finish his degree at UNM-Albuquerque. "I chose this because I enjoy real world problem solving and understanding how many pieces can assemble together to make a lot of the things we use today. UNM-LA has helped me lay a good foundation in lots of subjects related to my field."

He plans one day to work at LANL or another national lab. Jimmy's favorite class so far is physics, so he is hoping to pursue a career in a field that is related to that area.

Jimmy has three sphinx cats: Azrael, Israphel, and Shadow. He describes them as "little gremlins running around the house, nonstop sometimes. But they are very social cats. They make things entertaining, and it's nice to have them around."

Jimmy's hobbies mainly include being outdoors, working out, running, and hiking. Jimmy says he enjoys these physical activities "because they help to balance a lot of the mental work I have at school, so it's a good reset."

Jimmy is very active in school, having been elected to Student Government and selected for membership in Phi Theta Kappa, the international honor society for students in two-year colleges. Jimmy says, "I've decided to get involved as much as I can because I wanted to get a feel more for campus life and contribute what I can to it. It also helps me stay motivated being around other academically driven students." He hopes that he can leave the campus better than it was when he first came here.

Contact Jimmy with questions about Student Government at [gjimmy@unm.edu](mailto:gjimmy@unm.edu).



*Jimmy's cat Azrael.*

### FOLLOW US



## STUDENT GOVERNMENT PROFILE: GRACIE JOHNSON



We would like to recognize Gracie Johnson for her service as a representative on the UNM-Los Alamos Student Government.

Gracie has lived in the Jemez since she was 11 years old, and she was homeschooled until coming to UNM-Los Alamos. She is studying pre-engineering as part of the BSME program, and so she plans to continue her education at UNM-Albuquerque when she is finished with her associate degree. She has an internship at LANL, and anticipates continuing there when she has earned her BS.

Gracie's favorite hobbies are cooking and reading. She particularly likes cooking a variety of soups. Her reading list is long, but her passion is Christian non-fiction. She is currently reading John Lennox's *God's Undertaker: Has Science Buried God?* She also likes historical and realistic fiction.

Gracie is involved in church activities. She is currently teaching Sunday school to two-year-olds. Being the second of 10 children, she has a lot of experience with youngsters.

Gracie's family cares for a menagerie: two horses, three dogs, three cats, three rabbits, one goose, and numerous chickens. She is reticent to pick a favorite, but she admits to having a

soft spot for her intelligent and hard-working German Shepherd, Dietrich.

Gracie also enjoys artistic pursuits. She recently won the UNM-Los Alamos planner design contest with a drawing of the school. She also enjoys sewing and knitting.

In addition to her service in Student Government, Gracie volunteers at Sandoval County's La Cueva Volunteer Fire Department, where she is a wildland firefighter and first responder.

Gracie is very busy, but she will take the time to listen to your ideas for Student Government. You can email her at: [gjohnson2@unm.edu](mailto:gjohnson2@unm.edu).



Gracie and her family.

## IMPORTANT DATES

**December 5:** Last day to drop a full-semester class with dean's permission (talk to your advisor).

**December 8-13:** Final exams.

**December 24-January 2:** Winter break. Campus closed.

**January 19:** Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Campus closed.

**January 20:** Spring semester begins.

## HOLIDAY TRADITIONS: BELSNICKEL



GPT 4: prompting by Jef Bateman

In many European countries, Santa Claus is said to have companions. Some are jolly and kind, some are menacing. Among the most fearsome is Krampus, a man-beast with a devilish appearance who has seen a revival in popularity in recent years. A character who combines the jolly and violent is Belsnickel, who visits houses that have children in southwestern Germany a week or two before Christmas.

The name "Belsnickel" probably means "fur Nicholas," although it may originate from a term meaning "hitting Nicholas." Both of these descriptions are apt, and it is quite likely that the name originated to have a double meaning. Belsnickel resembles a dark, filthy version of Santa Claus, but he wears thick furs and carries a whip or branch in one hand so he can hit rude children. In his other hand, though, he has cakes and candies for children who were respectful during the year. He typically puts these gifts on the floor and strikes out if children are too greedy while grabbing them.

Some adults who grew up with this tradition report that they never saw Belsnickel actually whip anyone, although he did raise his whip to let them know that it was possible. Some say that the visit of Belsnickel, although fraught with danger, was the most anticipated event of the season.



1873 Scribner and Co., image currently in the public domain.

In the United States, Belsnickel is still a part of Christmas traditions among the Pennsylvania Dutch and other populations with strong ties to their German heritage. If he knocks on your door this year, be sure to warn the little troublemakers in your house before you let him in.

## LEGACY OF LEARNING: 45 YEARS STRONG

**NM**  
LOS ALAMOS  
A Legacy of Learning:  
45 Years Strong

Music   Commemorative Swag   Refreshments

Thursday, Dec. 4  
3:30-5:30 P.M.   4000 University Dr.  
Building 2, Student Center

For more information and to RSVP:  
unmlcommunications@unm.edu  
losalamos.unm.edu

1980-2025  
45 YEARS

### ADA STATEMENT

The University of New Mexico-Los Alamos is committed to the recognition and the proactive pursuit of compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA). The University makes reasonable accommodation for religious observances, national origin practices of a student and to the known physical or mental limitations of a qualified student, unless such accommodations have the end result of fundamentally altering a program or service or placing an undue hardship on the operation of the University. Qualified students with disabilities should contact Student Services for information regarding accommodations in the academic and/or employment setting. If you have a special need and require an auxiliary aide and/or service, please contact Student Services at (505) 662-5919.

## JOIN STUDENT GOVERNMENT

Do you want to join with the amazing people you have seen profiled in this newsletter to help make UNM-Los Alamos a better place?

If you are enrolled in at least six credit hours at UNM-LA and have a 2.5 GPA or better, you are qualified to run for UNM-LA Student Government!

Contact Grace Willerton or Jef Bateman for information about how to apply.

Grace Willerton: [gwillert@unm.edu](mailto:gwillert@unm.edu)

Jef Bateman: [jbateman1@unm.edu](mailto:jbateman1@unm.edu)

## CONSIDER A CIC INTERNSHIP

This could be you in May 2026! Join the Community Internship Collaboration for the Spring 2026 semester and put your classroom learning to the test in a professional environment, all while earning a \$900 stipend. Reach out to Internship Coordinator, Brittany Carpenter at [cic@unm.edu](mailto:cic@unm.edu) and learn more!



Community Internship  
Collaboration

*Graduation Ceremony*



Tues.  
Dec. 2

Bldg. 2  
Room 230

2 P.M.

## TIPS FOR FINALS



December 8-13 is Finals Week! Here are some tips that will help you prepare:

1. Start preparing early. While it is possible to memorize some terms at the last minute, it takes a while to process information and to understand concepts.
2. Get some sleep! Your brain works better when you have adequate sleep. Recall and abstract thinking both are much better among students who have slept more than seven hours the previous night.
3. Meet with your teacher. If your teacher has office hours, take advantage of them. Don't wait until the last minute!
4. Put your phone away. Ideally, shut the phone completely off and put it somewhere where you can't see it. Getting a text message can distract you to the degree that it will take more than 20 minutes for your full attention to return to your work.
5. If you study with friends, be sure you are focusing on the work.
6. Taking practice tests has been demonstrated to be the best way to review. If you can't find a practice test online, get together with other students in the class to write a test. Even writing the test is good preparation.
7. Eat something. Grab a free snack at Student Services during our Finals Fuel event! See the flyer below.



LOS ALAMOS

# FINALS FUEL

**GRAB-N-GO SNACKS**

**DECEMBER 8 - 11**

**9 AM - 3:30 PM**

**BUILDING 1 FOYER**

**(STUDENT SERVICES OFFICE)**

**FUEL UP ON FREE SNACKS  
TO PUSH THROUGH EXAMS!**

# STUDENT SERVICES

Student Services is a central hub of information for prospective, current, and former students to find assistance and answers to questions about admissions, financial aid, registration, academic advising, career services, and other resources on campus.



**Danielle Gonzales**  
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## Admissions

The Office of Admissions can help if you have questions or are ready to apply to UNM-Los Alamos. The Office of Admissions can provide application instructions for degree-seeking, non-degree, dual credit/concurrent, international, senior, or transfer students. Complete details can be found on the Admissions page: [losalamos.unm.edu/admissions](https://losalamos.unm.edu/admissions).

## Financial Aid

The Office of Financial Aid provides information on financial resources available to degree-seeking students. These resources may include scholarships, grants, and loans from the federal or state government, independent organizations, and/or UNM-LA itself. UNM-LA determines financial aid eligibility from the FAFSA, so please take time to file this document online every year. Don't assume you are ineligible—there are many opportunities to pursue.

## Enrollment Services

The Office of Enrollment Services at UNM-LA processes high school and other college transcripts of current and former students. The registrar can also answer questions about dual credit and concurrent enrollment, VA benefits, and graduation requirements.

## Academic Advising & Student Success

Academic advisors can provide guidance through the admission process, degree and course selection, and registration. Advisors also assist with changing a major, following up instructors' early alerts, filing graduation petitions, and planning for baccalaureate work. Advisors can also help resolve registration errors. Degree-seeking students must meet with an advisor before registering for each semester to check that their chosen classes will continue to make progress toward their degrees and to have their advising hold lifted. The Director of Student Affairs coordinates ADA accommodation services for students, and oversees academic advisement, student retention, and success initiatives.

## Career Services

Student Services offers career services to assist students with self-exploration, selecting a major, and opportunities for gaining experience in their chosen fields. Career services also include resume reviews, internship connections, job fairs, quantifying or translating skills, sharing job postings, and building connections between employers and our students.