



LOS ALAMOS

Student Services Newsletter

FEBRUARY 2026

WELCOME BACK FROM ACADEMIC DEAN BRENT PICKETT



Welcome Back, Students!

We're glad you're here for the spring semester. As you settle into your classes, we encourage you to make UNM-LA truly yours by building connections on campus.

Get to know a faculty member or two—they can offer insights about your field and help you navigate career options. Connect with your academic advisor. Make some friends. Consider joining Phi Theta Kappa or running for student government. Students who form connections are more likely to persist, graduate, and thrive. And honestly, don't you want someone on campus to celebrate your wins with, or to reach out to when things get tough?

Many of us were first-generation students ourselves (the Dean was), and we know the challenges of balancing school with work and other responsibilities. You don't have to do this alone.

This spring, join us for our "My Favorite Lecture" series: in March, we'll explore using telescopes to detect exoplanets, and in April, the Dean will discuss the Federalist Papers. These are great opportunities to engage with faculty and fellow students in a relaxed setting.

Here's to a successful spring semester!

MY FAVORITE LECTURE SERIES VIRGINIA GRANT, PH.D.

Please consider attending the first My Favorite Lecture of 2026. It is titled: "American Poetry: Forests, Places, and Robert Frost" and will feature Dr. Virginia Grant, the coordinator of UNM-Los Alamos' English and humanities programs.

My Favorite LECTURE

SERIES 2026

Featuring UNM-Los Alamos Faculty

American Poetry: Forests, Places, and Robert Frost
Virginia Grant, Ph.D.

Wed., Feb. 4
4-5:30 p.m.
UNM-LA Campus
Bldg. 5, Wallace Hall

Refreshments served

For UNM-LA donors, supporters, staff, faculty, friends, and other lifelong learners



For inquiries or to RSVP, contact Karen Williams, Director of Development, at karen.williams@unmfund.org



BLACK HISTORY MONTH MESSAGE: BRANDI WELLS-STONE, PH.D.

Dr. Brandi Wells-Stone is the Director of African-American Services at UNM.



As we welcome the UNM campus community into Black History Month, I'm truly grateful to invite you to join us in celebrating the 100th year of this powerful observance. What began in 1926 as Negro History Week, created by Dr. Carter G. Woodson to ensure Black

history was seen, honored, and remembered, has grown into a month-long, global celebration of Black excellence, resilience, and impact. This year, UNM African American Student Services is intentionally going back to the Basics by walking through the ABCs of Black history-revisiting the foundational stories, lessons, and truths that continue to shape our past, our present, and our future. As we learn, reflect, and gather together across our university-wide system, I invite each of you to engage with an open heart and curious mind as we honor Black history and the vital role it plays within our UNM community and beyond.



African American Student Services

IMPORTANT DATES

February 6: Last day to drop without a "W" grade and receive 100% tuition refund on LoboWEB.

March 15 - 22: Spring break. No classes, but the campus is open.

March 23: Start of second-half-semester classes

April 17: Last day to drop without dean's permission on LoboWEB

May 8: Last day to drop with Dean's permission. See an advisor.

May 11 - 16: Final exams

May 15: Commencement!



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.

FOLLOW US



BLACK HISTORY MONTH FEATURE: BLACKDOM, NM



Blackdom Family, ca. 1910. National Park Service.

After emancipation, formerly enslaved people wondered how they would earn a livelihood. While many aspired to integrate into the economy, Jim Crow laws were enacted by whites fearful of losing their hegemony. These laws restricted the freedom of Black Americans and undermined their ability to succeed economically.

Hoping that separating themselves into productive agrarian communities would allow them to prosper in ways not possible in white dominated towns—and seeking to take advantage of newly established homesteading laws—numerous groups of formerly enslaved people and their families founded “freedom colonies.” While most of these communities were located in eastern Texas, southeastern New Mexico was home to Blackdom. The colony thrived for a time on farmland near Dexter, until degradation of its water source forced residents to abandon the community in the same year it was officially recognized by the State of New Mexico.

The idea for Blackdom originated when Frank Boyer heard stories of the fertile fields of New Mexico from his father, Henry Boyer. Henry, a freedman, had traveled west as a wagoner during the Mexican–American War.

Frank Boyer was educated at Morehouse College and Fisk University. During his studies, he learned about the rights guaranteed by the United States Constitution and began educating other Black Americans. His civil rights activities attracted the attention of the Ku Klux Klan, and threats against his life convinced him that he needed to move to the frontier to create a more promising future for himself and others. He studied homestead law to ensure his plan was viable and that he could advocate for himself with a thorough understanding of his legal rights.

Boyer traveled to New Mexico on foot from Georgia with two other men; their wives soon followed. He officially registered his homestead in 1901 and used newspaper articles to encourage further Black settlement. At its height, Blackdom had approximately 300 residents, a Baptist church, a hotel, and a newspaper.

Beginning around 1916, crops at Blackdom began to fail. The primary cause appears to have been depletion of the Artesia aquifer. As water levels dropped, the remaining water became increasingly alkaline. Water diverted from the Pecos River proved inadequate to sustain agriculture. Rising salinity and alkalinity degraded the soil, making crops weak and vulnerable to pests.

Boyer petitioned the New Mexico legislature for the incorporation of Blackdom as a town, which was granted in 1921. By that time, however, the community had already been abandoned. Boyer and his wife Ella, a schoolteacher, moved to Vado, where Boyer helped initiate the village charter and is remembered as its founder.

Today, visitors to Blackdom can see a historical marker and the foundation of the church. The church itself still stands, though it has been moved to Cottonwood and converted into a home.

Although Blackdom ultimately failed as an agricultural community, the discovery of oil in the region provided wealth for some of its founders. In addition, Boyer’s emphasis on the empowering potential of education inspired people such as early settler W.T. Malone to learn the law. Malone is cited by *The Des Moines Register* as the first Black man to pass the New Mexico bar.



Loney K. Wagoner and other settlers, ca. 1918. Historical Society of Southeast New Mexico.

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE FROM CHANCELLOR MIKE HOLTZCLAW

Several exciting improvements have been completed or are nearing completion:

Front Entry & Parking: The road to Diamond Drive is now open, and parking is available in the front lot. While some spaces are reserved for the construction crew, you are welcome to use any open spots.

Building 7 Access: Full access has been restored on both the top and bottom levels. The new ramps and stairs are under construction and should be ready for use within a few weeks.

Art Studios: The new ceramics and art studios are complete and will host classes this semester.

Building 2 Improvements: Over winter break, we installed new windows and exterior doors on the upper level and repaired all ceiling areas affected by previous leaks before last year's roof replacement.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT STILL SEEKING REPRESENTATIVES

If you are enrolled in at least six credit hours and have at least a 2.5 GPA, you probably qualify for student government.



You must apply to run for any open positions.

Candidate Declaration Forms are available online at losalamos.unm.edu/student-government. Scan the QR Code below for more information!

Submit to gwillert@unm.edu by February 6.

QUALIFICATIONS:

Enrolled in at least 6 credits at UNM-LA
Minimum 2.5 GPA and in good academic standing

QUESTIONS?

Contact Student Services 505-662-5919
Grace Willerton • gwillert@unm.edu
Jef Bateman • jbateman1@unm.edu



CIC IS LOOKING FOR INTERNS

If you missed the CIC Meet and Greet but are still interested in an internship this semester, there is still time! If you are registered for at least six credit hours and are 16 years old or older, then you probably qualify.

Internships include a \$900 stipend. You will work with a mentor at your sponsoring business to complete a project. You will learn about the specific business and have experience to add to your resume. Businesses sometimes hire interns for permanent positions.

Also, interns are required to enroll in BSTC 299, a class that meets on Tuesdays from 2:00 pm-3:30 pm, February 10-April 14.

There are several internships available this semester. Scan this QR code for more information about opportunities and instructions on how to apply.



If you have any questions, please contact Brittany Carpenter at brcarpenter@unm.edu.

WE ARE HIRING!

Student Worker Positions



Academic Affairs Assistant

req35077

Perfect for students who enjoy helping others and want real administrative experience.

Library Assistant

req35067

Great for detail-oriented students or anyone who loves being around books.



How to Apply

Visit unmjobs.unm.edu or see the link in the description!

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.



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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.

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.