



LOS ALAMOS

Student Services Newsletter

APRIL 2026

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE FROM CHANCELLOR MIKE HOLTZCLAW



The Open Space Project, Phase 1 (the front entry of the campus), is substantially completed. There are some more signs, lighting, and vegetation to be installed but the stairs, ramp and parking lot are open. This project has dramatically improved the safety and accessibility of the front part of our campus

as well as improved wayfinding. Finally, it has greatly improved our visibility from Diamond Drive and emphasizes that we are part of UNM. I have already received numerous comments from the public and staff about how much better the front part of the campus looks.

Building 8 – The new ceramic and art studios are complete, and we began to offer classes this spring in the new spaces.

Open Space Project, Phase 2 will begin later this spring. This project will address issues with ADA, safety, and lighting. In addition, it will continue the new branding, signage, and general look from Phase 1, so that the campus has a unified and consistent look. This project should take approximately 12 months to complete.

There are a few smaller projects that we will begin in 2026 – new locker rooms to support the fitness center we plan to open in fall of 2026, updated bathrooms to meet ADA requirements in building 2 and 7 and new windows and doors on the first floor of building 2 to match those that were replaced on the second floor.

REGISTRATION BEGINS APRIL 6 FOR SUMMER AND FALL

Class registration will open on Monday, April 6. Please note that this is for both summer semester and fall semester.

Make an appointment to speak with your advisor on StudentHub or by calling the front desk at (505)662-5919.

Spaces are particularly limited for summer classes, so register soon!

IMPORTANT DATES

April 6: Registration begins

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!

June 1: Summer session begins.

June 12: Last day to drop without a "W" grade and full refund

June 19: Juneteenth, campus closed

July 3: Independence Day (observed) campus closed

July 28: Summer session ends

FOLLOW US



ARAB AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH: MALOOF FAMILY



El Rialto, photo by Duane and Tracy Marsteller.

April is Arab American Heritage Month. This month, we honor the Maloof family, which has a connection to Northern New Mexico that goes back over 125 years, and that boasts several UNM alumni, including actress and business owner Adrienne Maloof.

As a result of civil unrest in Lebanon in the middle of the 19th century, the American Southwest saw an influx of Maronite Christian Lebanese. The Maronite Church is an Eastern Catholic tradition. Their churches resemble Eastern Orthodox churches, with icons instead of statues, bearded priests (some of whom are married), and leavened bread for the eucharist. They are, however, in full communion with the pope, so are permitted to celebrate Mass in Roman Catholic Churches. When combined with other cultural similarities, this helped Lebanese Maronites to find a comfortable home in states like New Mexico and Arizona.

The best known of these Lebanese families is the Maloofs. While the family is known today for their connection to casinos and the NBA, they first became established in the Territory of New Mexico in 1898, when Obaid “Joe” Maloof opened a small general store in Las Vegas. This store was operated by the family until the 1950s, when structural issues required that it be torn down. Barbara Casey, posting publicly on the Facebook group “I grew up in Las Vegas, NM,” remembers:



“My Dad would take me with him to this store and George Maloof would ask me to sing him a song. (I was 4 or 5 years old). He would then give me a quarter. I remember he had a picture of his wife, Cora, hanging right above the checkout counter. George Maloof was one of the kindest men I knew growing up.”

While the general store is no longer standing, Maloof Hall—built in 1920—currently houses El Rialto Restaurant. Maloof Hall was used for public events and for staging shipments awaiting distribution.

The Maloof family's high profile in the state stems from the exclusive contract they were awarded to distribute Coors beer in the Southwest in 1937. This proved to be particularly lucrative when beer drinking became increasingly prevalent after the first world war.

We would especially like to recognize the tradition of charitable giving that has helped to make the Maloof name recognizable throughout the country. For example, Phillip “Uncle Phil” Maloof donated money to charities such as The Storehouse New Mexico, providing food to thousands of families. His generosity inspired the creation of the Uncle Phil Foundation, whose primary objective is eliminating hunger in our communities. The generosity of the Maloof family helps to keep our communities strong and sets an example for other philanthropists.

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.

UNM-LOS ALAMOS WRITING CLUB

By Jef Bateman



Our little writing club meets every Thursday at 2:00 pm in Room B-20, which is downstairs from the library. We have a different writing challenge every week, but we also find time to share selections from the longer projects we are working on.

The club does not have a formal membership process, and writers of all abilities are welcome. These are the projects of some of the most consistent participants:

Jim O'Donnell: Jim is a literary stylist with an ear for dialogue. His current project is a short novel about Juan and his nephew Manuelito on their journey to cross the U.S. border to return to their family. Jim explains, "Although they have their government-issued documents and green cards, they have been turned away at the border. Now they must try and cross the unforgiving desert, wrought with perils, to a place where they will attempt a crossing."

Tracy Bailey: "I've written about forty pages of a fantasy novel. It started as a simple romance in a world of pointy-eared people and beast races—and then it bloomed when I wasn't looking. Now it's a mix of slice-of-life and travel, with patches of loss, grief, healing, and an eldritch entity that actually cares. I'm in no hurry, so mostly I'm tending the garden to see what grows where."



Jess Spinelli: "Hi! I'm working on a written medley of experiential tales. I want to be the friend you can quite literally turn to for a laugh, moral support, and hopefully a touch of inspiration. While the feedback I receive at UNM-LA's writing club is valuable to me, I equally enjoy being an audience for talented writers in attendance. It's a great deal of fun, all-around. Please come! Sit with a supportive group of diverse personalities who bring depth of perspective and provide suggestions without malice."

Jef Bateman: "I have been writing short poems for a children's book, a comic strip parodying life in Los Alamos, and a memoir. My son got me started with the memoir by buying me a subscription to Storyworth. We have been using some of the Storyworth writing prompts that my son wrote as weekly writing challenges."

Even if you don't have writing to share, we encourage you drop by and see what we're working on. The club is open to students, staff, faculty, and members of the community. We look forward to seeing you!

NM LOS ALAMOS
Writing Club

You are invited to share your work and connect with other writers.
Stories, novels, poems, songs, plays, comic books — all fiction is welcome!

THURSDAYS
2:00 PM - 3:00 PM
ROOM B-20
Building 7
Basement Level
Under the Library

Open to students and members of the public!

Questions?
Contact jbateman1@unm.edu

Want to practice
improvisational acting?

JOIN OUR IMPROV CLUB!

New Time!

**MONDAYS
4:00 - 5:00 P.M.**

Building 4, Room 412

Minors need a signed permission form to participate. Contact Jef Bateman for a form.

Contact: jbateman1@unm.edu

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.