



LOS ALAMOS

Student Services Newsletter

MARCH 2025

MEET YU SONG,
SENIOR FISCAL SERVICES TECH



UNM-LA would like to welcome Yu Song as our Senior Fiscal Services Technician. In her position, she is responsible for purchasing, mailing, and arranging packages. Her main project currently is developing an online app and website that will present business analysis in a way that will make it easier for staff members to understand fiscal information. She envisions a system that is more intuitive and accurate. This project promises to make life easier for staff and faculty at our university.

Yu is exceptionally well educated. She earned a Ph.D. in Ecology from China Agricultural University. She was concerned that villages in China did not have access to clean water because of pollution and degradation of the environment. She investigated hydrological reservoirs and their environmental impacts. When she entered the program, she thought that understanding the problem would lead to scientific solutions. As she learned more about what was going on, she realized that the

solution had to involve education and public policy.

She came to the United States and studied at Indiana University Bloomington, where she earned a Master of Public Administration (MPA). Although studying in the States, her dream was to improve life in China, so she completed a post-doctorate in which she developed methods for determining the economic impact of environmental changes on households and businesses. She worked with a team to develop a system to evaluate these impacts, and they own a patent. This system is currently being used, and she has continued to work on it while fulfilling her duties at UNM-LA.

She is obviously very busy, but she finds time for her family. Her daughter is a year and a half old, and she requires a lot of attention. Yu occasionally has time to go for a hike, and she hopes to eventually take part in more outdoor activities.

We are pleased to have Yu using her analytical skills to make life on campus better for all of us. You can reach her at yusong1@unm.edu.

IMPORTANT DATES

March 16-23: Spring break. No classes, but the campus is open

March 24: Start of second-half-semester classes

April 18: Last day to drop without Dean's permission on LoboWEB. See an advisor

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

May 12-17: Final exams

May 15: Commencement!

JEJU FIRE FESTIVAL



Jeju is the largest island in South Korea. The Jeju people, who have inhabited the island for thousands of years, are known for their tradition of raising meat animals. The Jeju Black pig and Jeju Black cattle have been bred on the island for thousands of years, and the Jeju horse goes back to the 11th century CE.

Jeju is home to the Jeju Fire Festival, a unique March event that celebrates the imminent arrival of spring. The festival originates in the agricultural traditions of the island. As the days became longer and the weather warmer, Jejuans would set fire to the desiccated fields to prepare the land for spring planting.

Over the years, the festival developed into an extraordinary celebration of fire. Today, it features fireworks, bonfires, torch marches, and fire sculptures.



The event culminates at the Saebyeol Oreum (volcanic cone), where a mass fire turns the entire volcano into a burning spectacle, whose red glow can be seen for miles.



Even if you can't visit during the Fire Festival, you should make the time to visit this island that features amazing natural beauty and a rich cultural heritage.



WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH: EMMA ESTRADA



March is Women's History Month. This year we would like to honor Gallup native Emma Estrada (1933–1997), whose commitment to licensing of *parteras* (midwives) inspired The University of New Mexico to establish a midwife licensing program in 1990.

Estrada was trained as a *partera* in the traditional way. She apprenticed under two other *parteras*, and she began practicing on her own in the early 1950s. At the same time, midwifery was coming under fire for contributing to high infant mortality. Estrada saw that there were outdated practices in the profession, but she realized that few rural New Mexicans had adequate access to medical doctors who could lead them through pregnancy. Also, many communities preferred the personal approach of a midwife to the clinical methods they would find in a hospital.

Estrada envisioned a midwife profession that worked hand-in-hand with doctors and hospitals. She approached the New Mexico Legislature with a proposal to institute a licensing program. They agreed, and she became the first licensed *partera* in New Mexico in 1954.

At first, midwives resisted modernization and licensing. Estrada led by example, showing that using modern antibiotics and medical implements can lead to more successful

births without compromising the personal relationship that characterized the role of the *partera*.

Working in Gallup and the Four Corners area, Estrada attended over 700 births. She would attend births only if a licensed doctor determined that the pregnancy did not require a hospital birth. She helped to modernize midwifery.

Today, over 60% of states have a medical licensure for midwives, and most other states have a less rigorous registration program.

UNM's MSN Nurse-Midwifery program is ranked #11 in the United States by US News and World Report, and over 1/3 of midwives practicing in New Mexico are alumni of the program. The University of New Mexico honors Emma Estrada as one of the primary inspirations for this program, and some of her personal effects—including her medical bag—are displayed at the College of Nursing.

WOMEN'S
HISTORY
MONTH
MARCH



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



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 Student Success Manager 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.