



Student Services Newsletter

APRIL 2025

MEET ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT PAMELA NUSSBAUMER



Student Services would like to welcome Pam Nussbaumer to our campus, where she will be the executive assistant for Chancellor Mike Holtzclaw. She brings an important trait to the position: the desire to help others.

Pam recently moved to New Mexico from Maryland. Her

husband recently retired, and one of the few regions of the country that they have not explored is the Southwest.

Pam has an interesting work history, including a 20-year stint in the Coast Guard, from which she retired as Commander.

Pam enjoys outdoor activities, particularly hiking and running. She likes to see the country by finding 10-mile races in various states that she can run in. She gets out every weekend, so you should talk to her if you know any exciting trails in the area.

Pam has a dog and two cats. Her dog is a chihuahua who loves and protects the family, but who harbors a deep hatred for the rest of humanity. In case you see her walking her dog, consider yourself forewarned.

Pam is glad to be here, and she loves the people and scenery of northern New Mexico.

Pam's office is in Building 1, and her email address is pnussbaumer@unm.edu.

ACTIVE STUDYING FOR BETTER RECALL AND UNDERSTANDING



Students who are studying mathematics generally realize that working through problems and proofs is more effective than merely reviewing homework, but when studying history, English or language they often resort to passive study methods. Research shows, however, that active study methods are much more effective ways to achieve understanding and recall.

Passive review methods include re-reading notes or copying them verbatim. A better way to review notes is to prepare a quiz for yourself based on the information you have written down. You can get together with other people in the class to quiz each other.

Another active technique is to explain the material to someone else. This not only helps you review the class notes, but it helps you to see the elements of the material that you do not understand well.

Studies have shown that preparing charts and graphs improves your understanding, particularly in science classes.

ASIAN-AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH



May is Asian and Pacific American Heritage Month. This year we want to honor biologist Dr. Elizabeth Hong-Geller, currently the Bioscience Division Leader at LANL.

Dr. Hong-Geller is originally from New York City, where she earned her BA in Biochemistry at Columbia University. She then went on to get her Ph.D. in Cell and Molecular Biology at MIT and completed a post-doctoral fellowship at Cornell University, before coming to at LANL in 2000.

Dr. Hong-Geller was first drawn to the study of biology because she wanted to understand how the building blocks of life - DNA, RNA, proteins, and other biomolecules – come together to form such complexity in the many different forms of life. She says, “I wanted to understand the cause of diseases and how our immune system protects us from infection on the molecular level.”

Dr. Hong-Geller has worked on multiple research projects over the years. One area that she is particularly interested in is bacterial persistence. When people or animals are suffering from bacterial infections, antibiotics can effectively kill most bacteria. There are, however, a small percentage of bacteria that will enter a type of dormant or persistent state. Once treatment is complete and antibiotics are stopped, these dormant bacteria can reactivate and cause a recurrence of the infection. If we could understand the mechanisms of this persistent state, we could interfere with the process and force the persistent bacteria to reactivate before treatment is complete, so that the antibiotics can kill all the remaining bacteria. Knowing how to do this would have enormous implications in fighting chronic bacterial diseases.

Dr. Hong-Geller has mostly hung up her labcoat as the current Bioscience Division Leader at LANL, a position she has held for the last four and a half years. These days, she develops strategy for biology research at LANL to align with national missions in science. The challenge of prioritizing different areas of research and working with government agencies to fund this research is different than performing hands-on benchtop science, but she enjoys the challenge of building relationships with federal funding sponsors almost as much as extracting DNA in the lab.

UNM-LA thanks Dr. Hong-Geller for her leadership and research.



IMPORTANT DATES

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

May 12-17: Final exams

May 15: Commencement!

May 26: Memorial Day, campus closed

June 2: Summer session begins

June 19: Juneteenth, campus closed

July 4: Independence Day, campus closed

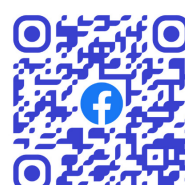
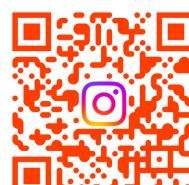
July 29: Summer session ends

August 18: Fall semester begins

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

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.