Hello OSA Colleagues,

It’s hard to believe that we are already at the end of the Spring 2019 semester! Congratulations graduates! This edition of the Connection will be a culmination of what has happened thus far in the semester, as well as a recap of some of the many exciting events and programs our Division provided to inspire learning and academic success and enhance the lives of our students during the latter part of 2018.

Over the past months, as we welcomed new and returning students to campus, the Division also welcomed new fellows to Student Affairs. We were honored to recognize outstanding students and staff through awards and ceremonies. We graciously gave back to the community and those in need, and educated students through conferences and fairs.

As the primary student services provider for the University’s large and varied student population we provide access, support, and encouragement to all students in pursuit of academic excellence. We strive to establish inclusive partnerships, programs, facilities and services, build leadership, enrich academic and career goals, and enhance the quality of life for potential and current students, and alumni.

-Dr. Eliseo “Cheo” Torres, VP for UNM Student Affairs

Student Health & Counseling
Leah Adent
Nicholas Dawson
Karen Lucero
Monica Martinez
Kyle Prinkey
Heather Sharpe
Laura Stewart

Student Union Building
Christopher Gossett

UNM Children’s Campus
Veronica Benavidez
Kelsie Benson
Nicole Cepeda
Kerry McNamara
Patricia Miller
Estrella Sedillo
Tyler Valdez
Grace Valenzuela
Kimberly Vernon
Meet the 2019 Fellows

Chris Brooks

Chris is a Student Activities Specialist in the UNM Student Activities Center. While he is new to working on a college campus, he has spent most of his professional life in the fraternity/sorority field. In fact, he has over a decade of experience working with fraternity students from across the country, and a significant amount of experience creating new curriculum for student learning and engagement and working with a diverse group of individuals.

“I’ve always had a passion for working with students and doing everything in my power to improve their college experiences.”

Gregory Condon

Gregory is a Hall Coordinator in the Residence Life and Student Housing Department. His experience working with Student Affairs has been through his current position and also while serving as a Residence Advisor during his time at University of Wisconsin Oshkosh. During his time there he formed a lasting professional relationship and connection with the Associate Dean of Students, and ultimately decided to follow in her footsteps. Subsequently, he went through the Oshkosh Placement Exchange and attended Mississippi State University where he also had positive experiences with Student Affairs professionals.

“Every person that worked in Students from my faculty to the staff was overwhelmingly welcoming and helpful when it came to answering my questions and giving me opportunities to learn.”

Paul Larribas

Paul is a UNM student majoring in Organization, Information and Learning Sciences. Fifteen years ago, Paul, became interested in Curanderismo and subsequently has been a main fixture in the UNM class over the past several years either as a student or as a volunteer. He credits the class and the medicine as leading him to an amazing transformation of body, mind and spirit. Paul has become a Lobo not only through his classes, but by volunteering at UNM commencement, and participating in the SHAC Student Health Leadership Council.

“I want to inspire people. I want someone to look at me and say ‘because of you, I didn’t give up.’”
Alonzo Maestas currently serves as the Director for the Veterans Resource Center (VRC) at UNM. In his current role he is highly involved and invested in the success of our students. As the director, he has taken the initiative to broaden the scope of how the VRC serves its students. He has helped to transform the VRC into a multipurpose student center which aims to help not only student-veterans but any student.

“As a veteran and a minority, I bring a wide range of perspectives to the battle that our students go through on a daily basis.”

Tina Zuniga is a Senior Student Program Advisor with the College Enrichment Program and supports the transition and retention of students who are currently underrepresented at UNM. She has always had a passion for serving students in an advocacy role through her previous work in LoboRESPECT, and also during her time at Fort Lewis College.

“I have been fortunate to work closely with many first-year students from rural New Mexico, which is near and dear to my heart.”

Brandi Stone was recently appointed as the director of African American Student Services on an interim basis. A search to fulfill the position on a permanent basis will happen at a later date. Brandi began her tenure at UNM as a student where she graduated with both a Political Science degree and an M.A. in Public Administration. She began as a student employee and has worked as a professional intern, senior student program advisor, and program specialist. In addition, she participates in several campus-wide and community committees.

Tyra Quetawki from Zuni Pueblo is Miss Indian UNM 2019-2020. She serves as a student ambassador, a role model to Indigenous peoples, and represents UNM and the local Indigenous community.
It’s an Honor
Students, staff, cultures, celebrated, and funded

Ray Renteria Celebrates 50 Years at UNM
Ray Renteria has been at The University of New Mexico in one capacity or another for 50 years! Ray’s love of the UNM community and helping people has kept him here for so long. His first role at UNM in 1968 was as an accountant in contract and grants, and currently he works as an accountant with the College Enrichment and Outreach Programs. He enjoys the challenges of keeping up with the changing policies at UNM and feels rewarded in the friends he has made along the way.

Smith Plaza Wins Design Award
If you’ve crossed campus lately, you’ve no doubt walked through the completely renovated Smith Plaza—considered the ‘heart’ of UNM. Smith Plaza was recently honored with the Urban Design Merit Award from the American Institute of Architects (AIA). The project team of MRWM Landscape Architects, McClain +Yu Architects, and Surface Design, Inc. sought to transform the inhospitable mostly-concrete plaza into a design that enhances the space for both academic and social activities while addressing the accessibility issues.

The award was given based on the skillful geometric scheme, and maintenance of fluidity and flexibility of use throughout the plaza. Many materials from the original Smith Plaza were repurposed and reused in the renovation project including demolition materials, dirt, and bricks. The design included drought tolerant plant palettes and more permeable surfaces—which the AIA says were of particular merit.

UNM Suits Up
For the fourth semester, UNM Career Services teamed up with JCPenney for an exclusive College Suit Up event at its Albuquerque Coronado Center store. UNM students, alumni, faculty and staff received an extra 40% discount on select men’s and women’s career and dress apparel, and as usual this was a well-attended event.
It’s an Honor
Students, staff, cultures, celebrated, and funded

Black History Month
Each February AASS commemorates Black History Month, a celebration of achievements by African Americans and a time to recognize their central role in U.S. history. The celebration featured a brunch with guest speaker Iva E. Carruthers, Professor Emeritus and past Chairperson of the Sociology Department at Northeastern Illinois University, and current General Secretary of the Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference, an interdenominational organization within the African American faith tradition focused on justice and equity issues.

SHAC Receives AAAHC Accreditation
UNM Student Health & Counseling (SHAC) has achieved reaccreditation by the Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care. Accreditation distinguishes this student health care center from other similar centers as only 30% of college health care services are accredited.

Status as an accredited organization means UNM SHAC has met nationally recognized standards for the provision of quality health care set by AAAHC and joins more than 6,000 ambulatory health care organizations across the United States who are accredited by AAAHC.

McNair Emerging Scholars Ceremony
The Ronald E. McNair program recently honored its graduating scholars at this important ceremony which celebrates their success, and also inducts the new scholars who are in their first year of the program.

CAMP Celebrates Farmworkers
The College Assistant Migrant Program (CAMP) honored farmworkers through their 7th annual Farmworker Awareness Week in March. Led by Camperinos—a UNM student organization focused on educating people on the role farmworkers play in our everyday lives. CAMP’s celebration aligned with the National Farmworker Awareness Week. The week is an advocacy event led by Student Action with Farmworkers (SAF) in response to the work by Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta. Farmworker Awareness Week directs attention to the unjust conditions seasonal migrant farm workers face and inspires dialogues of change.
BeKind UNM Spreads Kindness on Campus

For the 10th year, the Division of Student Affairs and BeKind UNM Committee partnered to promote kindness during the National Random Acts of Kindness Week in February. Participants were treated to the Kindness Carnival which featured a teddy bear toss, department- and program-sponsored tables with fun activities and games such as kindness rocks, teddy bear stuffing, creating cards, climbing onto a fire truck, and petting therapy dogs.

In addition to the carnival, Nusenda Credit Union, Satellite Coffee, APD and AFR teamed up to host the Fill It Forward/Coffee with a Badge event where people received a free refill of regular coffee from Satellite Coffee, got to know some of our APD, AFR, and UNM police officers, and donated more than $300 to the Lobo Food Pantry.

BeKind UNM Bear Delivery

This February, just as in year’s past, the BeKind UNM team held a teddy bear donation drive both on campus and at the men’s and women’s basketball games, which gathered several hundred bears. The teddy bear drive benefitted both APD and Albuquerque Fire Rescue this year. Members of the BeKind UNM team, APD, AFR, and athletes from the Lobo Men’s and Women’s basketball teams were on hand to receive the bears and interact with children at the UNM Children’s Campus.

The bears are used on patrols and calls and also put in gift baskets for families at Christmas time. Officers on calls involving children are able to go out to their cars and come back to the family with bears and toys.

WRC Receives Grant

Last fall, the Women’s Resource Center was awarded a $300K grant through the Office on Violence Against Women’s “Grants to Reduce Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking on Campus Program.” With Student Health and Counseling (SHAC) and North Campus support, the WRC will utilize an evidence-based, peer-advocate system to support survivors in navigating health services, including accompanying students to appointments and identifying educational needs.

ASUNM Spring Storm

The Associated Students of UNM (ASUNM) Community Experience hosted their annual Spring Storm in April. Countless students, staff, and faculty from UNM participate in a one-day service project. This event is a great way of giving back to the Albuquerque community.
**Academically Speaking**

**Competitions, fairs, and policies**

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**Career Fairs**

The Office of Career Services held several career fairs including Career Expo 2019 which is the premier recruiting event and an “all majors” job and internship fair designed to facilitate the recruitment of the best and the brightest that New Mexico has to offer and to encourage job seekers to network with professionals from across the nation. The Student Job and Internship Fair which provides UNM students the opportunity to meet with on-campus departments and regional and national recruiters from various organizations. And the Educator’s Job Fair which gives UNM students the opportunity to meet recruiters from local and national educational institutions and business corporations.

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**UNM Pet Permitted Housing**

The University of New Mexico’s Residence Life & Student Housing has created Pet Permitted Residence Hall Communities. The pilot program starting this fall includes two designated pet-friendly residence halls in the traditional style Santa Clara Hall and one of the Student Residence Center Apartment buildings.

“Being able to bring a pet offers UNM Students a different experience than they can get elsewhere,” said Wayne Sullivan, director of UNM Residence Life & Student Housing. “There are many benefits to living in university housing and offering this option will allow students to take advantage of those benefits while having an important part of their life with them.”

A variety of pets will be allowed including dogs (with certain restrictions), cats, small mammals, small reptiles and amphibians. Other animals may be considered for approval, on a case-by-case basis. “In addition to the education students receive in the classroom and in their academic endeavors, we believe students also learn a great deal of life skills and personal responsibility while living in UNM Housing,” said Sullivan.

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**UNM ROTC Units bring back Commander’s Cup**

Until a few years ago, the Commander’s Cup was a long-standing tradition for the UNM ROTC units—a friendly competition between cadets from all three military branches housed on the UNM campus. After a bit of a hiatus, the units came together and competed again. “The goal of the event is to get our future military leaders working together and engender a bit of espirit de corps and friendly competition,” says Professor of Military Science and Army ROTC Commander, LTC Alissa A. McKaig. The winners of the competition--which this year was Army--not only have bragging rights, but also get to house the coveted “Commander’s Cup” trophy in their unit.
Congratulations

Class of 2019!

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Congratulations Class of 2019!