

Academic Dispatch



January 25, 2023

Welcome Back

Welcome back to campus, Lobos! We hope you had a relaxing and rejuvenating winter holiday break.

As we return to our roles on campus, attending and teaching classes, conducting research, and serving our state, the efforts of staff on campus are visible and essential. These are the folks who advise students, support research, prepare food, keep our devices online and protected, maintain our beautiful campus, and more. As we get back into the rock climb of the semester, we can thank our staff for the extra handhold.

Stephanie Hands Named Director of the Office of Advising Strategies

So, speaking of handholds, I'd like to recognize our academic advisors. Our advisors work closely with students in guiding decisions about their educational plans within the rock climb towards their life goals. For students, connecting with your advisor is one of the key steps you can take to achieve success. Given that crucial task, I am extraordinarily pleased to welcome Stephanie Hands as our new UNM Director of the Office of Advising Strategies. Stephanie has worked in advisement since 1989. She has been recognized nationally for contributions to the National Academic Advising Association (NACADA). A UNM alum, she earned both a Bachelor's in Psychology and a Master's in Business Administration from UNM.



Stephanie Hands,
Director of the Office of
Advising Strategies

After a competitive search, Stephanie emerged as a great leader for the future of advisement at UNM. She has a strong commitment to serving students, and a proven record in bringing creativity and leadership to improving the student experience.

Jesse Alemán Named Interim Dean of Graduate Studies

As a research institution, graduate education is a critical element of our work at UNM, and the Office of Graduate Studies is a key component in this work. OGS keeps a high-level focus on the work of graduate students, ensuring that we have processes to recruit, retain, and educate graduate students throughout their challenging programs. Research is education, and our graduate students are here to further their understanding of the human condition and our understanding of the universe while advancing their own prospects and careers. The Dean of Graduate Studies is a key leader in ensuring this learning and discovery. I am happy, therefore, to announce the appointment of Dr. Jesse Alemán as Interim Dean of Graduate Studies, stepping in for Julie



Jesse Alemán, Interim
Dean of Graduate Studies

Coonrod, who has in turn taken on an important role in the Anderson School. Jesse is an accomplished Professor of English, and a deep thinker in the realm of graduate student learning. He joined UNM in 1999, and teaches nineteenth-century American, Chicano/a, and Southwestern literary and cultural studies. Jesse joined Graduate Studies as Associate Dean in 2018, and I have been privileged to learn from him over the years. I'm thrilled to have Prof. Jesse Alemán join UNM academic leadership in this interim role.

Staff Kindness Awards

Each year, we recognize staff excellence through several awards. One of these is the annual Provost Committee for Staff (PCS) Kindness Award. The winners from last fall were honored for extraordinary kindness and compassion. The winners were: Manuel "Manny" Vigil, a custodian at the UNM Taos branch, and Maria "Bernadette" Tafoya, operations manager in University College. Manny and Bernadette exemplify UNM values. Please join me in congratulating them on their well-deserved awards.

James Paul Holloway

Professor of Nuclear Engineering

Provost & Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

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