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Issue 9



OFFICE OF
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Querencia at UNM

THE PROVOST'S PERSPECTIVE FROM THE HEART OF UNM

Faculty success: A collective commitment

Inspired by the UNM 2040 strategic framework as our guiding vision — and brought to life through the collective efforts of partners across our campuses — Academic Affairs is proud to help cultivate a system that supports faculty not only in their teaching, research, and service, but in their sense of belonging and wellbeing within our community. At its core, querencia reminds us that excellence does not happen in isolation; it grows in environments where people feel seen, supported, and connected to one another and to place.



UNM welcomes faculty at the 2025 New Faculty Reception

Faculty success is never the result of individual effort alone. It is shaped by relationships, mentorship, and the many points of connection that sustain a career over time. This spring, we turn our attention to one such enduring source of support — [ADVANCE at UNM](#) — as it marks a decade of meaningful impact. As we thank Julia Fulghum for her leadership and welcome Lisa Broidy into the director role, we do so with appreciation for the community ADVANCE has built and with confidence in its continued role in helping faculty thrive.

Across campus, we are also witnessing the many ways our faculty bring querencia to life through their work. Earlier this month, it was a privilege to celebrate colleagues at the annual [Teaching Excellence Awards](#) — educators who, across disciplines and at every level, create classrooms where curiosity is nurtured and students are invited into a lifelong relationship with learning. These moments remind us that teaching is not only the sharing of knowledge, but the building of connection.

That same spirit was evident in the 70th Annual Research Lecture, where we honored [Distinguished Professor EdI Schamiloglu](#) for his distinguished career and contributions to scholarship. His work reflects not only individual achievement, but the broader academic community that supports discovery, innovation, and the exchange of ideas that reach far beyond our campus.

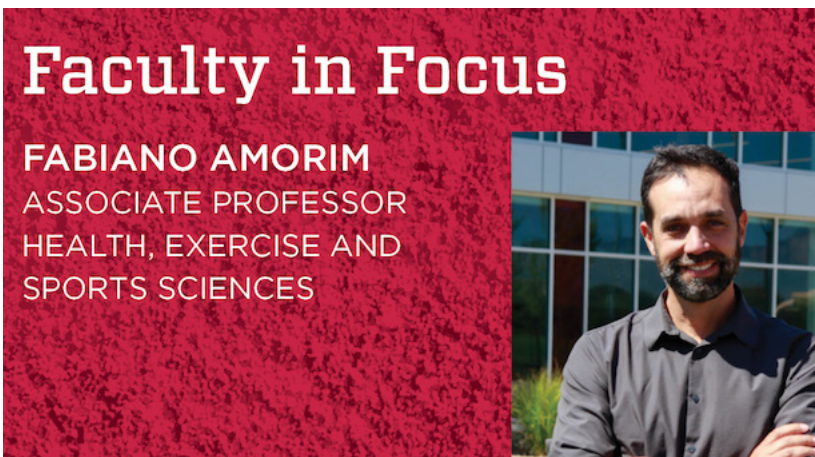
Teaching and research are central to faculty life, but they are also deeply communal acts. Through publishing — whether in journals, books, or other creative expressions — faculty extend their reach, contributing to conversations that connect UNM to communities across the state, the nation, and the world. This week, I look forward to joining President Stokes and EVP Richards at the Published Professors Reception as we recognize the breadth and depth of work shared by our faculty in 2025. Each contribution reflects not only scholarly achievement, but a commitment to advancing knowledge in service of others.

This month in Faculty in Focus, we highlight just a few of the thousands of faculty who make up our university community. Their disciplines may differ, but they share a common thread — a deep commitment to their students, their research, and to community. Their stories remind us that *querencia* is not an abstract idea; it is lived daily in the ways we support, mentor, and uplift each other. As we move through the final weeks of the semester, I hope you find inspiration in their journeys and in the community we continue to build together.

With much appreciation,

Barbara Rodríguez

Interim Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs



Fabiano Amorim, associate professor and department chair in the Department of Health, Exercise and Sports Sciences, has been at UNM for 14 years in total, first as a Ph.D. student in 2004, then after returning to his native Brazil, he came back to UNM in 2016.

His research focuses on how heat stress affects human physiology, health, and performance.

“I am especially interested in occupational populations exposed to high heat and physical demands in real-world settings. My work

integrates laboratory and field-based approaches to better understand physiological responses, identify risk factors, and develop strategies to improve health, safety, and performance.”

His current work includes a project funded by the Rockefeller Foundation that examines heat stress in informal workers in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, such as street vendors and recyclable material collectors, who often work in outdoor environments and represent an understudied and vulnerable population. Another line of research focuses on occupational heat stress in the United States, particularly in the construction industry.

Amorim said he is most proud of the success of the students he has worked with, which is a product of the strong community he has benefited from as a faculty member and department chair. “I am very grateful for the people I encountered at UNM,” he said. “Their guidance helped me navigate to a new environment and grow as a faculty member.”

Liz Cooper, an associate professor in the College of University Libraries and Learning Sciences,

has been at UNM for 12 years, previously holding positions at University of Colorado Denver; Emory University; and American University in Cairo, Egypt. Her current role at UNM is as a faculty member and social sciences librarian for Graduate and Faculty Engagement.

Cooper's research focuses on international issues related to libraries, research methods, and graduate students and their research needs.

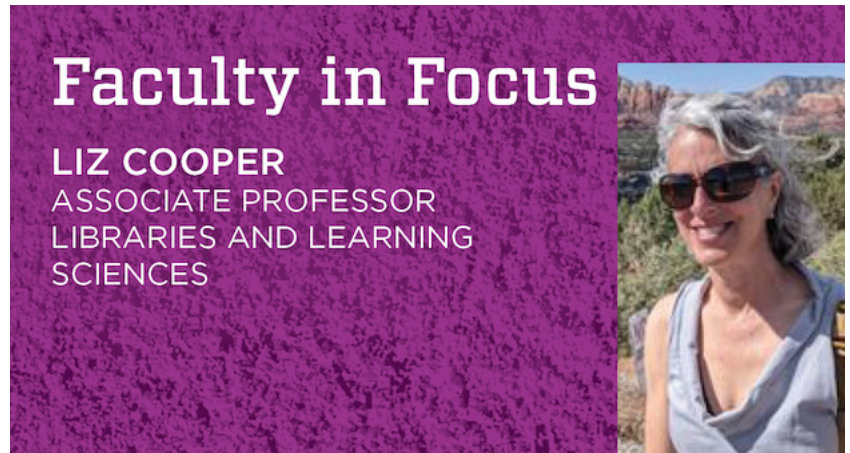
Recently, she was co-author of an article about graduate students with multiple, overlapping roles and how their lived experiences shape their academic lives.

Other recent research includes a study that examined whether U.S. academic libraries are prepared to handle community challenges to collection materials. They found that most are not and proposed a template for responding to such challenges. The work with Cooper's UNM colleagues received [a national award recognizing research with significant impact in the library and information field.](#)

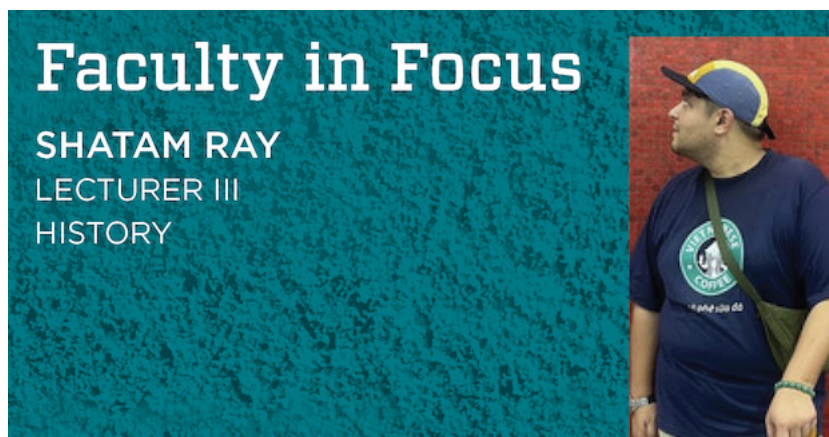
Looking ahead, Cooper —a Greek-American scholar — will explore how libraries and both formal and informal learning environments are helping individuals and communities rebuild local knowledge in Greece, with a complementary study planned in Turkey.

Cooper's career has been substantially enhanced from the deep connections she has formed with colleagues, such as a workshop offered by ADVANCE that inspired her to expand into new research areas, as she is doing in the Mediterranean. That support has enabled her to do what she enjoys most. "I think the thing I am most proud of in my academic career is connecting people to resources that could help to make someone's academic life better."

At UNM, she has found support at all levels. "This is a very caring community of faculty scholars, and I feel fortunate to work in such an environment."



Shatam Ray, Lecturer III in the Department of History, moved to Albuquerque on a Mellon Dissertation Finishing Fellowship awarded through Emory University. After completing his Ph.D. in 2020, he joined as a faculty member at UNM. He is trained in labor and environmental history with a geographic focus in Modern South Asia. His current book manuscript looks at the history of capitalism as being germane to the ways in which colonial agro-ecological contexts were shaped in the non-metropolitan societies.



“I am deeply interested in seeing the ways in which a global environment of extraction and accumulation is, at first, built up and then, subsequently, perpetuated and reproduced thereby naturalizing both capitalist forms of extraction and the natures of impoverishment they rely on.”

He also is developing an interest in the larger field of science and technology studies, which may include exploring the idea of a working-class history of electricity in India, his native country.

For Ray, his faculty journey at UNM has been made more meaningful because he was able to bring in his interest in environmental history and his focus on Asian history into the UNM teaching fold. “It speaks to UNM student population’s growing appetite for courses that center the history and cultures of Asia — home to 4.7 billion people in the world, living across nearly 50 countries that speak over 2,000 distinct languages. It is a matter of some pride that in my classes I have been able to represent these histories, not just through academic writings in the English language by ‘Western’ scholars but often using primary, secondary, visual, literary and digital sources that are authored and composed by people from those societies themselves, many times in their own languages.”

Developing curriculum around these specific areas would not have been possible without the UNM community, such as the Department of History, and receiving University-wide and departmental grants. “I would not be able to do any of these things had it not been for the cooperation, guidance and support of my colleagues and friends I have made here at UNM. I am also thankful for the Center for Teaching and Learning for conferring me with a Teaching Excellence Award this past academic year.”

In addition to signing up for the UNM graduate and undergraduate commencement ceremonies and a variety of academic college convocations coming up next month, our Lobo community is also strongly encouraged to participate in stoling ceremonies hosted by African American Student Services, American Indian Student Services, the Asian American Pacific Islander Resource Center, and El Centro de la Raza. Stoling ceremonies are open to all undergraduate, graduate, and professional students, and provide an additional opportunity to honor our distinct and rich cultures and recognize the collective support that contributes to degree attainment. These celebrations complement commencement and convocations by offering a personalized and culturally meaningful experience. Visit the [Class of 2026 Spring Commencement website](#) to sign up and learn more about all the opportunities available to celebrate our success.



BELONG survey

UNM is seeking undergraduate students to take an online survey about their UNM experiences — everything from how they view the quality of their classes and academic advising to their overall sense of belonging as a Lobo. The [survey](#) will be open until May 15. The survey is part of the [BELONG \(Building Environments for Learning, Opportunity, Navigation and Growth\) project](#) led out of the Office of Academic Affairs. The data will help UNM in its continuous efforts to improve life for students — both academically and socially.