Greetings to all of our Honors alumni and friends! What a wonderful and exciting year it has been here in the new Honors College. I must immediately apologize for it having been so long since you last heard from Honors, and I hope we will be able to fill you in on all of our happenings with this special edition of *Afterwords*. There is so much that is new, and so much that is still very much the best of what we have always treasured as UNM Honors.

The most important message I wish to relay is how important you all are to the Honors community. As some of you may realize, Honors at UNM is 57 years old. Soon we will celebrate our 60th birthday. The college may be new, and there are many changes afoot, but we are still UNM Honors, and this college has been built on your hard work as students, your successes since then, and your support of us over the years. Don’t let the new name fool you. Whether you graduated in 1970 or in 2014, you are our alums and we want to see you and hear from you as much as possible.

To that end, we are planning a very special Homecoming event this fall in September. Several alums have agreed to plan and organize the event, and while the focus this year will be on the faculty and alumni who have participated in our many international programs, we very much hope that you will decide to join us, regardless of whether or not you ever traveled with Honors. It will be a fun-filled weekend with many opportunities to see old friends, admire the newly remodeled forum, and visit other parts of campus. You should already have received a first email about saving the date, and there will be more information over the next month. For now, do look at the brief announcement later in this newsletter.

Another initiative we are taking with the strong leadership of a few very generous alums is the formal establishment of an Honors Alumni Chapter. Many other groups at UNM have such chapters, and it is time for us to create our own. Julia Gilroy and Christy Tarleton are spearheading this project for us, and we hope to complete the formal process later this fall. Whether you completed six credit hours in Honors or took every class you could get, we hope that you see yourself as an alumnus and will join the formal group as it comes online.

We began last fall semester with the exciting announcement that our literary and fine arts magazine *Scribendi* had won the Pacemaker Award, which is considered to be the Pulitzer of undergraduate literary magazines. Congratulations go to Amaris Ketcham and the 2012-2013 student staff members who made this all happen.

This past year, we admitted more than 600 freshmen to the program, we changed the ways in which students can participate in the new College, and we worked to create a new Honors Interdisciplinary major. We also graduated almost 100 students. We expect that the number of students who complete at least the Honors Designation will grow, but we remain committed to maintaining the small class size that has been so important to the Honors experience. To make this possible, we will continue to seek strong junior faculty to join the College when positions open due to retirement. This year we were fortunate to have four new tenure track faculty members join the College, and as you will see from their introductions further on, they have brought exciting new curricula and ideas to the College.

With the support of UNM Provost Chaouki Abdallah, we are now able to invite 2-3 outstanding professors from around campus to join us through a competitive award, the UNM Distinguished Honors Fellows. This year we selected two UNM senior faculty members to teach for the year: Dr. Matthew Hofer from the English Department and Dr. Gary Weissmann from Earth and Planetary Sciences. In the spring semester, Dr. Shawn Berman from the Anderson School of Management will join us as well. We are excited to have these strong colleagues on board.

Since your last newsletter, we sent faculty-led programs to Australia, Spain, Argentina, Ecuador, Uruguay, and England to study such diverse subjects as Shakespeare, tropical marine ecology, and the cultural significance of the Inca Trail. Students searched for dinosaur bones and eggs, transcribed long forgotten music, and improved their Spanish.

Finally, most of you will know that our esteemed Director and Associate Dean, Dr. O., to all of us, retired in July of 2013. She reports that she is enjoying life with her grandchildren these days. She comes to visit once in a while, and we continue to miss her warm and caring style. The Rosalie C. Otero Research Scholarship Fund has been created in honor of Dr. Otero, and donations may be made to this fund through the UNM Foundation.

It is my honor to follow in her footsteps as we move forward in this new chapter of Honors history. Dr. O. knew so many of you, and I still know only a few of you; so I hope that you will come to visit and send information about yourselves. As I grow into this position and the College grows in new directions, we want you to be a part of our future. If you have news about yourself, please email it to honors@unm.edu, and we will add it to upcoming newsletters. I promise not to take so long in getting the next one out.

Best wishes from all of us here,

Ursula L. Shepherd

A PUBLICATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO HONORS COLLEGE
Alumni Homecoming and a Special Reunion Save the Date!

Every year during the UNM Homecoming celebrations, the Honors College hosts a reception for our alums. If you have never attended, do plan to do so this coming year and every year in the future. This year, with the leadership of alums Sarah Peceny, Christy Tarleton, and Julia Gilroy, we are doing something special by planning a group of events to host our alums who participated in international programs over the years. We do want to see you and to know what is happening with you. Faculty and staff and often, retired faculty, return to greet all of you. To read more about our reunion, check out our Facebook page (search “UNM Honors College”) or go to http://www.unmalumni.com/honors.html.

Honors Activities are as follows:

Friday, September 26, 2014
4:00-6:00 PM - Reception at the Hotel Albuquerque
8:00-11:00 PM - We anticipate forming a group eligible to purchase tickets to Wicked at a discount. Contact us if you are interested.

Saturday, September 27, 2014
1:00-3:30 PM - Albuquerque Brewery Tour. Requires RSVP prior to event.
4:00-7:00 PM - Reception in the Honors forum hosted by faculty and alumni from our Honors international programs

Sunday, September 28, 2014
9:00 AM - Alumni Breakfast (Location TBA)

Special Hotel Albuquerque room rates are available:
$109/night plus tax based on single/double occupancy, 505-843-6300

RSVP to our activities and reception at unmalumni.com/honors.html.

Contact us at honors@unm.edu for questions and more information.

NEW FACES AMONG HONORS COLLEGE ADMINISTRATION AND FACULTY

Dr. Kate Krause, Professor and Dean of Honors College

Kate Krause was named the Dean of our College in June 2013. The previous year she acted as the Interim Dean and was a key facilitator during the transition from program to college. She is a professor in the Department of Economics and is the Dean of University College, as well as the Honors College. She grew up in a small town in northern Minnesota and earned her B.A. at the University of Minnesota in 1977. She graduated from Stanford Law School in 1981 and practiced law in St. Louis, Missouri for several years before moving to Madison, Wisconsin to attend the University of Wisconsin. She earned her Ph.D. in Economics in 1996 and joined the faculty at UNM that year. She became Interim Dean of University College in 2011. In 2013 the Honors College was created, and she was appointed Dean of Honors and of University College.

Dr. Sarita Cargas, Assistant Professor

Professor Cargas’s interdisciplinary background comes from an undergraduate degree at the great books college, St. Johns in Maryland, an M.A. in psychology from Georgetown University, an M.A. in systematic theology from Aquinas Institute in St. Louis, and an M.St. in the study of religion and a Ph.D. in theology from Oxford University in the United Kingdom. Her research and teaching focus on human rights and she teaches a course on critical thinking. Her goal in teaching is to expose students to complex global problems and to teach them how to think critically about addressing them. Her students focus on solutions. They have presented research on solutions to global water shortages and global food insecurity and explored innovations in provisions for healthcare and education. Currently, the critical thinking class is learning how to analyze controversial topics while respecting the arguments from multiple angles. Their topics include drones, genetically modified foods, NSA spying, gun control, fracking, and vaccines. A constant refrain from the students is that they are learning about important issues they’ve never heard about, including femicides just over the border in Mexico and the billion people who will experience hunger this year.

The Honors College has four areas of focus for donor support. The first is for discretionary funds that allow the Dean to seize opportunities. The second is for students’ experiential learning, including service learning, field study, and study abroad. The third supports student research opportunities and the fourth is Scribendi, a literary and fine arts magazine published by honors students.
NEW FACES AMONG HONORS COLLEGE ADMINISTRATION AND FACULTY

Amaris Ketcham, Assistant Professor

Professor Ketcham received her M.F.A. in Creative Writing from the Inland Northwest Center for Writers at Eastern Washington University. Amaris has published essays, poetry, and short fiction in a variety of magazines, anthologies, and online venues. Her teaching interests include creative writing, fine arts, graphic design, and print and digital production. She currently serves as the Faculty Advisor for Scribendi, the Honors College and Western Regional Honors Council literature and fine arts magazine. Amaris teaches the two-semester class that trains a cohort of students in graphic design, Adobe Creative Suite, copyediting, fundraising, and literary magazine theory, as well as its publishing process. Students work together to produce the nationally recognized literature and arts magazine that serves 200 honors colleges and programs in the western region. In addition, Amaris is working with a local environmental paper to create a UNM student editorship.

Dr. Jason Moore, Assistant Professor

Professor Moore received his Ph.D. from the University of Cambridge in 2006, and he worked at Texas A&M University and Dartmouth College before joining our Honors College. His research lies at the boundary of biology and geology — investigating the processes controlling vertebrate ecosystem structure in the geological past, particularly in response to major extinctions and climate change events. Recently he has been trying to understand the ecosystem shifts associated with the demise of the dinosaurs and the rise of the mammals and the global cooling associated with the formation of permanent glaciers on Antarctica 33 million years ago. Throughout his career he has found paleontology, and particularly, the allure of fieldwork, to be a great “gateway drug” to introduce students with a broad range of interests to STEM disciplines. He has worked strongly to actively incorporate the undergraduates he teaches into his research program. Past students have published in major peer-reviewed journals and presented at national scientific conferences, and a significant number have built on these early research experiences to move on to advanced degrees and, in at least two cases, to academic positions.

Dr. Ryan Swanson, Assistant Professor

Professor Swanson is a first-year faculty member in the Honors College. Having earned a Ph.D. in history from Georgetown University, Swanson specializes in American sport and political history. Swanson’s first book, When Baseball Went White: Reconstruction, Reconciliation, and Dreams of a “National Pastime” (published in June 2014), explains how baseball became segregated following the Civil War. As the Director of the Lobo Scholars Program, Ryan works closely with UNM’s high-achieving student athletes. He has taught a variety of courses on sport and its role in American history and society, as well as courses on many other aspects of U.S. history. Due to his position as a liaison between the Athletics Department and Honors College, Ryan’s teaching and research contain both theoretical and operational components.

Sophia Alvarez, Department Administrator 2

Sophia Alvarez is the Department Administrator for the UNM Honors College. She received her B.S. in Marketing and Management from the University of Montana and earned her M.B.A. from Gonzaga University. After completing her M.B.A. in 2011, Sophia and her family decided it was time for a change of scenery (and weather); so, they moved from Rocky Boy, Montana to sunny Albuquerque, where she started working at the UNM Honors College as the Program Coordinator. In addition to her Honors work, Sophia is a UNM Staff Councilor, sits on the National American Indian Business Leaders Alumni Advisory Board, and is a Miss Indian World Judge. She spends most of her spare time with her husband Zane and their three children (Rebecca, Aidan, and Claire).

Layla Archuletta, Administrative Assistant 2

Layla Archuletta was raised in a small Northern New Mexico town that is rich in culture and art. It was here that she found a love for making films. After graduating from high school, she moved to Albuquerque to pursue a degree in critical studies with a concentration in interdisciplinary film and digital media at UNM. She is currently completing her degree while working as a full-time staff member at the Honors College. Layla greatly enjoys working with students and mentoring youth and plans to continue to develop these skills as she grows within the University.

For questions, please contact
Sophia Alvarez, Department Administrator
honors@unm.edu or sra@unm.edu
(505) 277-4211

UNM turned 125 this year and Honors celebrated with a ribbon-cutting ceremony to unveil our newly renovated forum! Go to http://goo.gl/S6z8fw to view pictures from the event!
RECENT DONORS TO HONORS

The Honors College has received a number of donations, both large and small, from our many loyal friends. It is only with this support that we are able to provide stipends and scholarships that allow so many of our students to participate in international opportunities, undergraduate research, and conference presentations across the country and sometimes around the world. We send our heartfelt thanks to all of you who have been so generous, and we truly honor each and every one of you!

Judith and Les Adler
Dr. Celia Lopez-Chavez and Dr. Thomas Chavez
Robert Adler and Jo Ann Wexler
Julian Lucero-Emmons
Dr. William Baker and Myra Gambburg
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Maguire
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and Millie Meyer
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ALUMNI NEWS

Amena Al-Hashimi Adams (née Amena Ishak) (December 2003) most recently was a staff scientist at a medical device company, where she was deeply involved in the development of a pathogen capture system for the extraction of fungal and bacterial targets from whole blood for the rapid diagnosis of bloodstream infection. Upon graduating from UNM with a dual B.S. and University Honors, Amena worked at Planned Parenthood of New Mexico, providing low-cost healthcare to men and woman at two Albuquerque clinics. She then worked as a Medical Laboratory Technologist at Tricore Reference Laboratories in Hematology and Infectious Disease and now works at the medical device company. She is married to Dr. Eddie Adams, who acts as Mo Bio Laboratories Director of Research and Development. They share their home in San Diego, California with two bubbly girls, Layla, 5, and a baby girl expected to arrive early this August.

Margaret Stevenson (May 2003) is currently in Vienna, where she lives with her husband and young baby boy. She is completing her Ph.D. and will travel to UNM this fall to join others for the Honors Homecoming Reunion.

Carlee Ashley (August 2005) was selected as one of the two 2011 Sandia Laboratory Truman Fellows. Collaborating with Jeff Brinker and the University of New Mexico Cancer Center, Carlee’s work has involved the creation of a nanoparticle known as the ‘protocell,’ which will be used as a direct drug-delivery system to boost the effectiveness of disease-fighting therapies. It is already being adapted for use against some cancers; such a tiny nanoparticle one-thousandth the width of a human hair could also someday shield war fighters against potential chemical and biological warfare. Carlee is now one of the principal investigators on a $10.8 million grant from the U.S. Department of Defense, the purpose of which is to develop this protocell as an antibiotic delivery system to create an effective vaccine against chemical and biological weapons. Laboratory testing has begun at UNM and additional tests will be performed at the Lovelace Respiratory Research Institute beginning in approximately 2015. Researchers on this project could also help lay the foundation for using protocells to deliver many other antibiotics and antiviral drugs in the future.

Katie L. Liberatore (May 2007) successfully defended her Ph.D. dissertation in December 2013. Her dissertation is entitled “Investigating the roles of gene dosage and stem cell maintenance in the regulation of plant shoot and inflorescence architecture” and is based upon work

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World MUN provides delegates with a week of debating, working, and socializing. From the topics of organ trafficking to ethnic conflict, World MUN attempts to bring some of the best critical thinkers of the next generation together to work through contemporary issues and sometimes century-long conflicts. Due to the generous support of the Honors College, seven undergraduates from UNM were able to participate in this valuable experience. Delia Brennan and Cecelia Kelly participated in DISEC to discuss the issue of drones without a declaration of war; Victoria Garcia and Jennifer Zafra were delegates in SPECPOL and discussed ethnic conflict; Matt Fleischer attended ECLAC, where they discussed solutions for income inequality in Latin America; Katherine Ceja approached the topic of underlying causes of health disparities; and Elijah Candelario won “Best Delegate” in HGA, where his committee simulated the 1994 Rwandan Genocide.

Honors Students at the World Model UN in Brussels, Belgium

completed in Dr. Zachary Lippman’s tomato genetics group at the Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory in New York. Katie received her Ph.D. in biological sciences this past spring from the Watson School of Biological Sciences, and she is now completing her postdoctoral training as a Research Molecular Biologist at the USDA-ARS Cereal Disease Laboratory in St. Paul, Minnesota where she is working to improve disease resistance in wheat. She and her husband Brian Kramer are expecting their first child in October.

Sarah (Guilinger) Lawson (May 2008) is married to Gary Lawson and is a 5-year graduate student at Vanderbilt University. She is broadly interested in the evolution of sociality. This fall she will be defending her thesis and starting a post-doctoral fellowship at the University of New Hampshire. There, she will be able to continue her research on the evolution of social behavior.

Matthew Barnes (May 2008) just turned the corner on his sixth year in the Marine Corps (6 years, 2 months to be exact). In November 2012, he was promoted to Captain (from First Lieutenant). In April 2013, he returned to Yuma, Arizona from a 12 month Afghanistan Deployment. During the deployment, he was heavily involved in the logistics planning and execution to transition Marine Corps forces and equipment back to the United States. Upon his return, he resumed his role as the Ground Logistics Officer at Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron-13. In September 2013, he was selected to attend graduate school at the Air Force Institute of Technology (AFIT) in Dayton, Ohio, to pursue a Master’s of Science in environmental engineering (July 2014 - August 2016). He is currently working on narrowing a thesis topic studying renewable energy systems and their future and increased roles in Marine Corps logistics and operations.

Alex Washburne (May 2010) is completing a Ph.D. at Princeton University. He writes: “Just got done being the TA for theoretical ecology in Princeton — with this in the bag, I’ve been the TA for every mathematical biology course they have here, and I keep coming back by popular demand!! Doing much better now than on my presentation on ants/termites in Darwin, Australia, to say the least.”

Jessica Martin (May 2010) is working on her dissertation. After graduating from UNM, Jessica spent several years working as a biology field technician in New Mexico, Montana, and Colorado. In September 2013, she joined the lab of Dr. Rodolfo Dirzo at Stanford University, where she is now a Ph.D. student. During her first year of graduate school, Jessica was awarded both a Stanford Graduate Fellowship and an NSF Graduate Research Fellowship. For her dissertation, Jessica plans to study the effects of land use change on zoonotic disease (diseases that can affect humans as well as other species) in Costa Rica.

Caitlin Rottler (May 2011) is currently pursuing her Ph.D. in ecology at the University of Wyoming. Her dissertation project deals with reclamation on inactive oil and gas wells. More specifically, she is looking at how different types of reclamation impact the recovery of forbs communities and soil carbon and nitrogen pools.

Cesar Soria Jimenez (May 2013) is currently attending medical school at the University of Chicago and doing research in a basic science lab with the chair of the neurology department. This research is part of the school’s Summer Research Program, which lasts 10 weeks between a student’s first and second year of medical school. In September, Cesar will be traveling to Cusco, Peru for two weeks with a student group called REMEDY, which will provide cervical cancer screening for indigenous women in the area. The student group has a partnership with a local clinic, CeviCusco, and they will be working with local doctors during this endeavor.
Two years ago, the McKinnon Family gave the Honors College a grant that was to be spent over the next three years. To date, it has been used for two important purposes: to fund some of our international study opportunities and to begin to seed an Honors Research Institute. Last summer, our Associate Dean, Dr. Shepherd, was able to take five students to work with her on a coral reef marine research project. One student-authored scientific paper is currently under review, and the major work has been completed and is currently in the final manuscript stages. This work has important ramifications for the management of tropical reefs around the world, and the students received excellent training during that field experience.

The recent Uruguay program led by Jason Moore was another program funded through this grant. Three students traveled with him this summer and participated with researchers from around the globe in a paleontological project in which they inventoried a new site and cataloged what they found.

During the academic year, six students also worked with our Carruthers Chair, Javier Lorenzo, to transcribe old music from the 1800s and early 20th century. Their work resulted in a recital of the music during the Honors Awards ceremony in May, and it is expected that a full symphonic performance will be produced within the next year. What a thrill for those students!

And as we speak, four students are hiking the Inca trail in Ecuador, working with Dr. Lovata on the cultural impacts of that trail.
We were extremely fortunate to have Javier Alejandro Lorenzo as our Garrey Carruthers Chair during the past academic year. Javier was born in Buenos Aires, Argentina. He has been a teacher, conductor, and choirmaster since 1984. He received his Master’s degree in orchestral conducting from the University of New Mexico in 2002 and his degree in music from the National Conservatory of Music in Buenos Aires in 1981. He is also an accomplished choral director and music producer. Javier Lorenzo produced and conducted the impressive production of Astor Piazzolla’s internationally renowned “tango operita,” Maria de Buenos Aires, during the inaugural season at the Roy E. Disney Center for the Performing Arts in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The production featured a celebrity cast of artists from Buenos Aires, as well as the original choreography, lighting, stage, and costume design. As the National Hispanic Cultural Center’s musical director, Javier Lorenzo premiered works by Latin American composers during the Fiesta de las Américas — a series of classical, folk, and popular music from Latin America. He also conducted chamber, choral, and orchestral concerts with the New Mexico Symphony Orchestra. Lorenzo concluded the season with Ariel Ramirez’s Misa Criolla, which was performed with a chorus of 100 voices and traditional folkloric instruments. During his time in the Honors College, Javier Lorenzo taught seminars about Latin American music such as Zarazuelas and Drums & Dreams, the latter of which was co-taught with Dr. Celia López-Chávez and included a field study in Argentina.

An Important New Initiative — Lobo Scholars

The Lobo Scholars Program is an important new initiative here in the Honors College. This is an unprecedented effort with the Athletics Department to foster and support academic excellence among our high-achieving student athletes. This multi-tiered initiative seeks to provide student athletes with new opportunities for intellectual growth and cross-community collaboration. More specifically, the initiative provides an opportunity for students to assess their scholar-athlete experience in an intellectually rigorous manner. Ryan Swanson is the Honors Director of this landmark program.