

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

Hello, and welcome to our revamped newsletter!

Our department hasn't had a newsletter for a while. In this issue you will find updates from the last few years, with extra focus on the 2024-2025 school year. We have some exciting news about what our faculty and students have been doing - new publications and presentations, awards and highlights, and important connections with the community. I also wanted to showcase some of the fun we've been having in the department - look for tons of pictures inside. We had a busy year, and are gearing up for another one, equally event-filled.

If you want to learn more about any of our programs, check out the "Links" section on the right.

If you did not receive this directly and would like to be added to yearly newsletter email list, please email hooton@nmsu.edu. If you are an alum, we want to hear from you! Send us your updates to add to next year's "Alumni News" page.

Last year was my first with NMSU, and I'm excited to share with you updates from this special place I now call home.

DR. LAURA HOOTON



Department of History

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**BE BOLD. Shape the Future.
New Mexico State University**

Chair's Corner

DR. ELIZABETH HORODOWICH, CHAIR



The department of history is witnessing a period of dynamic transition and renewal. Over the past several years, we have conducted three successful tenure-track searches. First, Professor Jerry Wallace was hired in Spring of 2023 to be our new Director of Public History. Some of you may already know Professor Wallace since he has long been a presence in the history department, both as a student and adjunct instructor. He completed his PhD at the University of New Mexico, and his book manuscript in progress, under contract with UNM Press, is titled *The Forgotten Empire: Trost & Trost and the Revival of Spanish Renaissance in the US-Mexico Borderlands, 1903-2020*. It will offer a timely rethinking of the history of postwar borderlands architecture. Our second search in the fall of 2023 led us to hire Professor Laura Hooton as a tenure-track borderlands history. She obtained her PhD from the University of California Santa Barbara and comes to us from Angelo State University, where she had been assistant professor of history for three years. Her book *Little Liberia: A Dream of Black Freedom in the US-Mexico*

Borderlands, which examines an African American business and anti-White supremacy movement in Baja California in the early twentieth century, is in press with Oklahoma University press and will be forthcoming in 2026. Our third search, which took place in the fall of 2024, allowed us to hire Professor Thea de Armond, who obtained her PhD in Classics from Stanford University. Professor De Armond is a field-going archaeologist who has conducted archaeological fieldwork at multiple national and international sites, including with a variety of academic institutions, private contractors, the US Forest Service, and the National Park Service. She has worked in the history department for several years as an adjunct and visiting assistant professor and has gained a notable following among our majors for her courses in ancient history, as well as for her course on the history of prisons and incarceration. We are thrilled to have all of these new faculty in our midst!

This period of transition has also involved the retirement of a handful of incredible faculty who have spent their entire careers as professional historians at NMSU. These include Professor Margaret Malamud, who retired in the spring of 2023 (now Professor Emerita of ancient history); Professor Nathan Brooks, who retired in the fall of 2024 (now Professor Emeritus of Russian history), who retired in spring of 2025 (now Professor Emeritus of East Asian history). As they embark on new chapters in their lives and their scholarship, we want to express our deepest gratitude to each

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Chair's Corner Cont'd

of them for the wisdom, passion, and dedication they have shared with thousands of students over the course of their careers. Their impact as instructors, colleagues, and scholars is immeasurable, and their influence will continue to be felt in the lives of those they have mentored and taught.

Trying to make up for lost time after years of COVID uncertainty and travel restrictions, the history department has resumed hosting a wide range of events, including a talk by Oberlin College Professor of History Leonard V. Smith on "The History of French Colonialism" (Fall 24) as well as a presentation by University of Texas El Paso Assistant Professor of History Nicole Breault on "Policing Networks in Colonial Boston" (Spring 25), among many others.



Dr. Laura Hooton (Left) and co-panelists at the Western History Association Conference, 2024.

Activities like these, and our ability to expand support to students, has been newly enhanced by a range of recent donations and bequests that is allowing the history department to amplify its work more than ever before. Most notably, a \$100,000 bequest by the late Doris Blaisdell has allowed the department to fund a permanent, endowed lecture series in her name; a lecture series that will enable us to invite several distinguished speakers to campus each year. In addition, Professor Emeritus of History William Eamon has also recently established the Fabián García Memorial Scholarship in History. Eamon's donation establishes an annual scholarship targeted towards the support of first-generation students. We are so pleased to be able to accept both donations and look forward to making use of both of them to enhance our departmental mission.

If you have an update you would like to share, please send it to history@nmsu.edu. As you can see, this has been a busy and exciting past few years in the NMSU Department of History, and while I don't want to spoil the surprises in the works, I can say with certainty that there is more to come.



Award winners and presenters at the Fall 2024 Arts and Sciences Awards Ceremony (L to R): Matthias Borg (undergraduate), Madison Marino (MA), Honor Beeson (MA), Dr. Ken Hammond, and Dr. Thea De Armond.

Public History Point

DR. JERRY WALLACE, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HISTORY

There is a lot to celebrate from the Public History program. In December 2024, Madison Marino and Honor Beeson completed their Masters in Public History. Madison was recognized for her hard work with the Dean's Outstanding Graduate Student Award and Honor with the Outstanding Community Service Award. The program and the history department would like to wish Honor and Madison well in their professional endeavors. Mackenzie Ross graduated in spring 2025 and has accepted a full-time job with the office of Academic Advising at NMSU. Moreover, Mackenzie is also entering the Borderlands Studies PH.D program.

Over the last 18 months, NMSU public history students have had some wonderful internship experiences in the region's museums, historic sites, archives, community organizations, historical societies and associations, and historic preservation communities. For instance, Richard Lewis, Tracie Amend, and Theodore Hahn worked with the Columbus Historical Society during the summer of 2024 to organize the Columbus Museum archive. Madison Marino interned at the Wheels Museum and Van Collins at the Balloon Museum in Albuquerque. Honor Beeson completed several oral history projects with New Mexico Historic Sites, the Taylor/Mesilla Cultural Property, and with Las Esperanzas in Mesquite.

The annual Historical Society of New Mexico Conference will be held in Las Cruces in fall 2025. Dr. Troy Ainsworth and Dennis Daily

oversee local arrangements and have asked if graduate students would be willing to volunteer for the event. If you want to work at the conference, please email Dr. Wallace or Dr. Hooton.

The ongoing public history community-based project, *Murales Fronterizos*, has much to report. Last year, public history graduate students inventoried and updated a great variety of murals in Las Cruces. Next, students created a database and merged three websites into one. Dr. Hooton is working on the website this summer for our presentation at the HSNM conference in September. Finally, the project is entering a new phase in which students will collaborate with El Paso Community College to document murals in Ciudad Juarez.

Since January 2025, the Southern New Mexico Historical Review has been housed in the NMSU History Department. Editor Chris Schurtz will oversee its monthly newsletter, website management, and yearly journal publication. Tracie Amend is currently the assistant editor on the journal. If you are interested in submitting an article, please contact Chris Schurtz at cshurtz@nmsu.edu. The deadline for

(Continued on next page)



Public History Point (Cont'd)

the 2026 journal is 1 October 2025.

The Dona Ana County Historical Society hosts a monthly lecture series. Joel Parra Gonzales and Sean Schifano presented their work there in April and May 2025, and Mackenzie Ross will present in the fall of 2025. Please join us. If you are interested in presenting your research in regional history, please get in touch with Dr. Wallace.

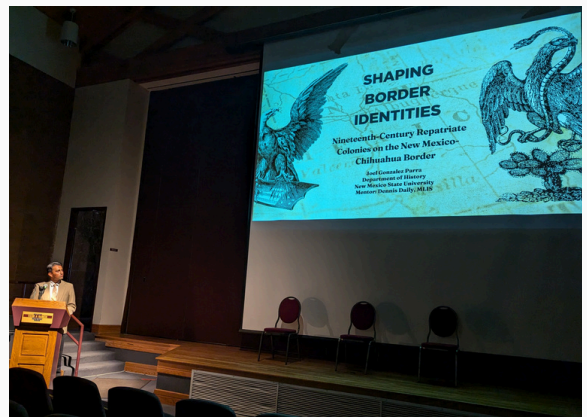
Jerry Wallace is working on a manuscript, *The Forgotten Empire: Trost & Trost and the Revival of Spanish Renaissance in the US-Mexico Borderlands 1903-2022*, forthcoming with the University of New Mexico Press. In addition, he is working on a journal article, "Passing the Buck!" How Homer C. Pickens and Bucky the Mule Deer Ushered in a Modern Environmental Ethic in Los Alamos County, 1958-1968."

In addition, Professor Wallace is the Chair of the J. Paul Taylor Academy Governance Board, Chair of the Historic Preservation Commission, and Vice Chair of the Dona Ana County Historical Society. Starting in winter 2025, he will also be on the editorial board of the New Mexico Historical Review.



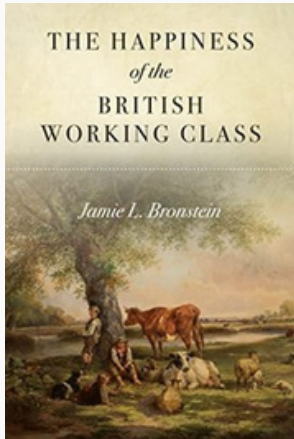
Above: Sean Schifano (MA) presents at the Border Archives Bazaar, New Mexico Farm and Ranch Museum, 2024

Below: Joel Gonzalez Parra (undergraduate) presents at the Border Archives Bazaar, New Mexico Farm and Ranch Museum, 2024

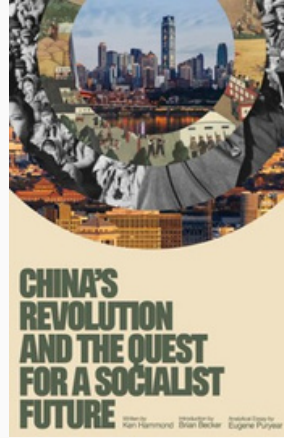
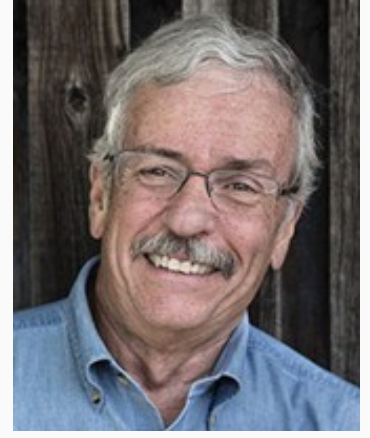


On Right, L to R: Hamed Azizangilan (MA), Tracie Amend (MA), and Dr. Jerry Wallace at co-curated exhibition at the Branigan Cultural Center, February 2024.

Publications & Presentations



Dr. Jamie Bronstein's *The Happiness of the British Working Class* was published in 2023 with Stanford University Press. While the history of emotions is a burgeoning field, the emotions of working people, especially during the period of industrial transformation, have long been overlooked. Moreover, within the contemporary field of Happiness Studies, scholars have lamented the absence of studies that bridge time and space. These are some of the gaps that her book addresses. As she puts it, "It is thus trans-disciplinary, and the sheer size of my dataset (I read more than 340 autobiographies of working--class Britons born before 1870) has given me great insight into what it felt like to be a person living through a time of massive economic transformation. Those stories animate my teaching as well."

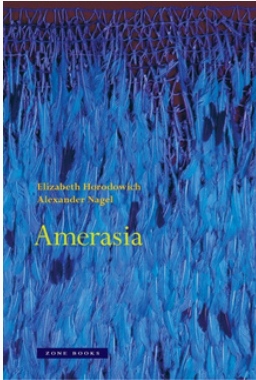


Dr. Kenneth Hammond's *China's Revolution and the Quest for a Socialist Future* was published in 2023 with 1804 books. It presents a brief history of China from the early nineteenth century to the present, a period which has seen the country go from being prosperous and powerful, a leading economy in the world, to a greatly weakened state dominated by the forces of Western industrial imperialism, and then through a process of revolutionary transformation which has allowed it to re-emerge as a significant participant in global affairs. He argues that to understand China today it is imperative to know this history, and to appreciate how China seeks to blend its traditional culture with the dynamics of modern socialist development.

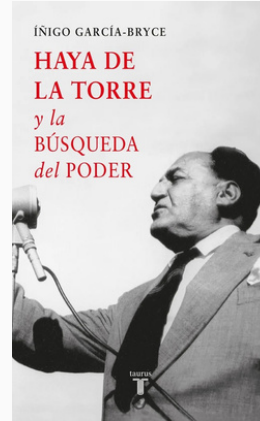
Right: Members of the History Department listen to a presentation at CampingCon 2024.



Publications & Presentations (Cont'd)



Professor Liz Horodowich's *Amerasia* was published in 2023 with Princeton University Press/Zone Books (co-authored with the art historian Alexander Nagel). *Amerasia* argues that while we know that Columbus might have originally imagined that he had landed in Asia—a mistaken idea that was supposedly quickly dispelled—in fact, for hundreds of years after 1492, Europeans understood the lands to the west of the Atlantic to be contiguous or overlapping with Asia. Even in 1700, European observers believed the lands that we today call New Mexico were immediately proximate to China and India. As she describes, "I became interested in the idea of an imagined Amerasian continent when I was doing research for another book, and I kept seeing the same pattern in the sources: European explorers and cartographers regularly "confused" the lands in the Western Atlantic with China and India. I came to the conclusion that these observers weren't "confused" at all, but that instead, they had their different but logical way of seeing the world, including the understanding that "America" and Asia were the same place.



The Spanish translation of Dr. Iñigo García-Bryce's book was published in Peru by Penguin-Random House: *Haya de la Torre y la búsqueda del poder*.
¡Felicidades!

ARTICLES

Tracie Amend, "The Queer Body and the Obstructed Gaze: Chicanx Performance Artists and the Power of Self-Objectification" *Regeneración: A Xicanacimiento Studies Journal*, Vol. 1, No. 1 (2024)

Dr. Alex Standen, "Striking for Public Power: Workers, Energy and the Nationalization of Puerto Rico's Electrical Grid, 1933-1941," *Journal of Political Ecology*, Vol 31, Issue 1 (May 2024)

Publications & Presentations (Cont'd)

CONFERENCES, PRESENTATIONS, & EXHIBITS

Tracie Amend (MA)

- "150 Years of Stage and Screen: Leisure Culture in Doña Ana County," Lead Curator, Exhibit at Branigan Cultural Center (Las Cruces, NM)

Dr. Thea De Armond

- " 'The Light Which Guides All Workers in Science': A Prosopography of the Margins of Archaeology," Archaeological Institute of American (Philadelphia, PA)

Dr. Iñigo García-Bryce

- "Peru's Central Railroad: Who Benefits? (1870-1908)," Rocky Mountain Council for Latin American Studies (Salt Lake City, UT, 2024)
- "The U.S.-Mexican Railroad Connection in El Paso-Ciudad Juarez, 1882-1964" Rocky Mountain Council for Latin American Studies (Ottawa, Canada, 2025)

Dr. Laura Hooton

- "Black Resistance in the Borderlands: Twentieth Century Black Social Movement Organizing in California," Collegium for African American Research (Berlin, Germany)
- Elected Secretary of Collegium for African American Research
- "Black Resistance in the Borderlands: The Impact of the California Borderlands on Black Social Movements in the Twentieth Century," Western History Association (Kansas City, KS)

Joel Gonzalez Parra (Undergraduate)

- "Shaping Border Identities: Nineteenth-Century Repatriate Colonies on the New Mexico-Chihuahua Border," Border Archives Bazaar (Las Cruces, NM)

Sean Schifano (MA)

- "The Crypto-Jewish Historical Archives: Preserving a Community and Identity," Border Archives Bazaar (Las Cruces, NM)

Dr. Alex Standen

- "Conservation in the Colony: Forging and Contesting Public Lands in Puerto Rico," CampingCon (Miembres, NM)
- "Land Conservation and Hydropower in Puerto Rico from 1930-1950," American Society for Environmental History (Pittsburgh, PA)

Joshua Venegas (MA)

- "Salvador Lutteroth González, the Father of Lucha Libre: Capitalism to Culture," National Association for Chicana and Chicano Studies (Albuquerque, NM)

Awards and Acknowledgements

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

Samuel Adams

- 2024-2025 Kathleen Williams Award

Matthias Borg

- Dean's Community Engagement for Leadership Award

Angel Corona

- 2024-2025 Clark-Kropp Award

Jennifer Hazlett

- Dean's Outstanding Undergraduate Award

Guinevere Mayse

- 2025-2026 Clark-Kropp Scholarship

Beck Martinez

- 2025-2026 Fabián García Scholarship

Danley Ruiz

- 2025-2026 History Department Scholarship

Jaden Ruttle

- 2025-2026 History Department Scholarship

Braxton Zink

- 2025-2026 Kathleen Williams Scholarship

GRADUATE STUDENTS

Honor Beeson

- Spirit of New Mexico Award

Madison Marino

- Dean's Graduate Award for Excellence

Mackenzie Ross

- Exceptional Accomplishments in Graduate Leadership Award

Sean Schifano

- Award of Recognition for Leadership for the History Department

FACULTY

Dr. Jamie Bronstein

- National Endowment for the Humanities summer grant for new project "The Insanity of Colonialism"

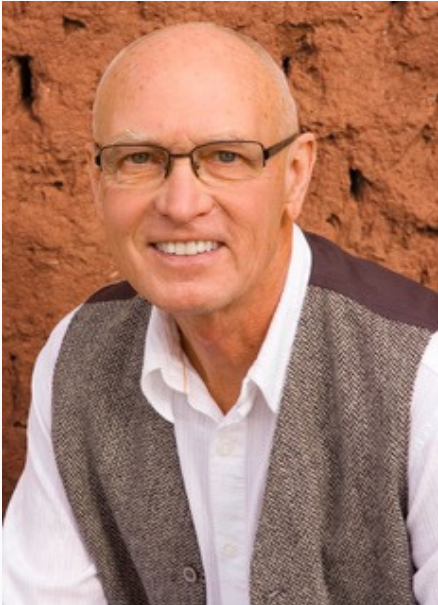
Dr. Laura Hooton

- Arts & Humanities Seed Grant Awardee
- Arts & Sciences Faculty Travel Award

Dr. Elizabeth Horodowich

- Gave the William F. Church Memorial Lecture at Brown University: "Amerasia: Early Modern Imaginative Geography, 1492-1700"

The Fabián García Memorial Scholarship in History



The Fabián García Memorial Scholarship in History was created by William Eamon, a Regents Professor Emeritus of History at NMSU. Eamon was a member of NMSU's history department from 1976 until he retired in 2014. Eamon was also the founding dean of the William Conroy Honors College.

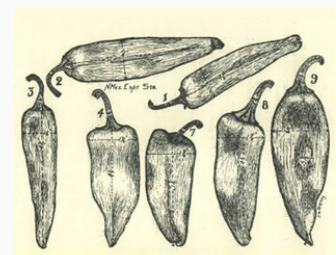
The scholarship is named for Fabián García (1871-1948), a Mexican immigrant who migrated to the United States with his grandmother at the age of two after the death of his parents. He spoke no English when he arrived in America but was adopted by a Las Cruces family and in 1890 enrolled as a student in the New Mexico College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts, as NMSU was then named. He graduated in the college's first class of five graduates, and after earning an MA at Cornell returned to his alma mater to establish an agricultural experiment station. Inspired by the legacy of his Mesoamerican ancestors who developed corn and other food crops, García devoted his life to cultivating hundreds of new varieties adapted to the southern New Mexico desert—chances are the last chile relleno you ate was made with a variety of chile he developed. Fabián was not only an immigrant but also a first-generation student at New Mexico A&M and a shining example of the potential of our current first-generation students. As a historian of science and a first-generation student from a small rural community in eastern Montana. Eamon wanted to honor this extraordinary man, who overcame many obstacles and contributed so much to science and economic development in southern New Mexico. Fabián was a quiet, cultivated man and an avid reader of history. Surely, he would be pleased to know that each year, one of our own first-generation history majors will be awarded this scholarship in his honor.



Top: Regents Professor Emeritus of History
William Eamon

Bottom: Fabián García

Right: García's sketches of Chili Peppers



The Department on the Road: CampingCon 2024

MACKENZIE ROSS (MA)



October 9th – 13th, 2024, the National Council of Public History hosted its annual CampingCon in the Gila Wilderness of New Mexico. Taking place at Camp Thunderbird in Mimbres, attendees focused on the themes of “Wilderness and the Historian,” specifically discussing issues related to interpretation, preservation, and historical education in outdoor settings. The weekend was selected to highlight the centennial celebration of the Gila Wilderness designation, one of the country’s first areas to be protected as a wilderness conservation area.



The conference was partially sponsored by the New Mexico State University Department of History and the New Mexico State University Library. The History Department was represented in various ways, including Professor Alex Standen, who presented his titled “Conservation in the Colony: Forging and Contesting Public Lands in Puerto Rico,” and Dr. Thea De Armond, whose knowledge and experience in archaeology, along with her previous work with the National Park Service, provided critical insights and perspectives on the weekend’s discussions. Thanks to their funding, the History Department was also able to send two graduate students to CampingCon to participate in their first conference. Madison Marino – who graduated in December 2024 – shared that the experience was an incredible opportunity to meet local scholars and representatives from the National Park Service and discuss critical issues surrounding public land management. The guided discussions and scholarly debates contributed to my graduate research article project, focused on examples of public land interpretation and sacred Indigenous sites in Las Cruces.



The weekend was full of meaningful discussions and debates about the role public history plays in our local communities. The combination of the beautiful outdoors, insightful talks, and scholarly engagement made CampingCon a memorable weekend!

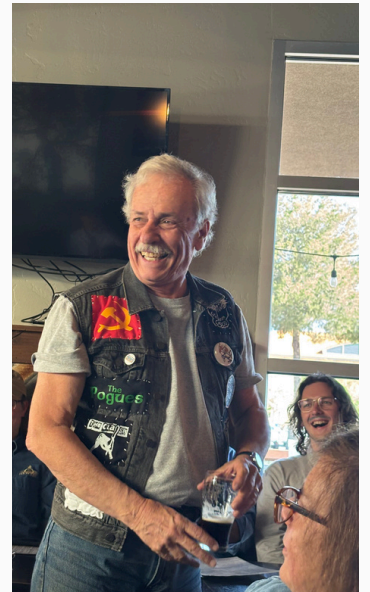


Left to Right:
Madison Marino (MA)
Mackenzie Ross (MA)
Dr. Thea De Armond
Dr. Alex Standen

Around the Department: Ken-ebraction



To celebrate Dr. Ken Hammond's retirement in Spring 2025, students and faculty got together to plan what we dubbed our "Ken-ebraction." For years, students and faculty have met at Bosque Brewing Co. across from campus to chat on Wednesday afternoons. Unbeknownst to Ken, for his last Bosque before he officially retired, we decided to arrive en masse - dressed like Ken! Over 30 students and faculty donned fake mustaches, denim shirts and jeans, straw hats, baseball caps, and ties (and even an Star Trek-style mirror universe Ken). Students made Ken a patched vest, and everyone in attendance signed the inside with a sharpie. He will be missed!



Around the Department: Faculty Adventures



Dr. Laura Hooton, 2023-2024 Clements Center fellows, and Clements Center faculty and staff at a reunion in Kansas City, KS 2024.

Dr. Jamie Bronstein was on sabbatical for Fall 2024 and focused on her project "The Insanity of Colonialism." Her research was funded by an NEH grant, matched by NMSU grants, which allowed her to research newspaper articles mentioning insane asylums and state hospitals, death certificates for San Miguel County, census records, asylum records, and materials from the National Archives in Kansas City and State Archives in Santa Fe. She was also able to travel to archives in Las Vegas, New Mexico.



Dr. Alex Standen presenting his research at CampingCon



Left: Dr. Laura Hooton visits a public history installation for the Berlin Wall while at a conference in Berlin, Germany.

Right: Dr. Elizabeth Horodowich views archival material while at Brown University in Fall 2025.



Around the Department: Photo Gallery



Left: Madison Marino (MA) defends her Public History Article in Breland Hall, Fall 2025

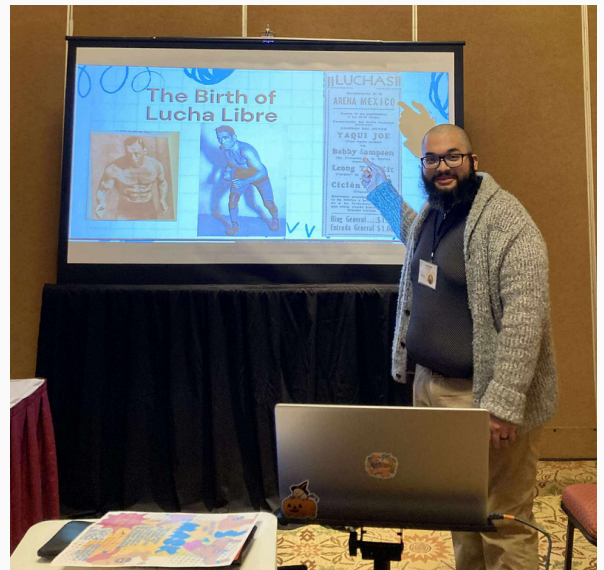
Right: José Jiménez (MA) presents his MA thesis research on campus in Fall 2025.



Right Top: Joshua Venegas (MA) presents a chapter of his thesis at NAACS (National Association for Chicana and Chicano Studies) Spring 2025

Right Bottom : Honor Beeson defends her Public History Article in Breland Hall, Fall 2024

Below: Flyer for a special co-sponsored event with History and Africana Studies. We had a fantastic turnout and a stimulating Q&A session.



Around the Department: End Of Semester Awards Picnic

This year we resurrected and revamped another department tradition from pre-COVID years: a department get-together each semester. Our Spring End of Semester Awards Picnic included enchiladas, rice, beans, and amazing potluck food brought by students and faculty. Emeritus Professors Margaret Malamud and Bill Eamon joined to congratulate Dr. Ken Hammond on his retirement, and Dr. Eamon gave out the first Fabián García Memorial Scholarship. We celebrated this year's scholarship and award winners. We ended with a game of trivia, designed specifically for the event by Doug Hooton, which included a round in celebration of Ken's retirement as well as history-themed rounds. The winning team wore their shirts to campus the next day! We plan to host a similar event every semester.



Above: Emeritus Professor Margaret Malamud tells stories about Dr. Hammond.



Below: Dr. Hammond recounts his time in the department



Around the Department: End Of Semester Awards Picnic Awards Photos



Emeritus Professor Bill Eamon discusses Fabián García's legacy and the new scholarship.



Emeritus Professor Bill Eamon and Beck Martinez



Dr. Laura Hooton and Jaden Ruttle



Dr. Jerry Wallace and Guinevere Mayse



Dr. Thea De Armond and Braxton Zink

Around the Department: End Of Semester Awards Picnic Trivia



Above: The winning trivia team!



Department of History

Around the Department: Photo Gallery

ARTS & SCIENCES AWARDS CERMONY



Matthias Borg and
Dr. Ken Hammond



Honor Beeson and
Dr. Thea De Armond



Madison Marino and
Dr. Thea De Armond

WEDNESDAYS AT BOSQUE



Guinevere Mayse and
Camrin Blake



José Jiménez and his thesis committee celebrate his
successful MA thesis defense at Bosque, Summer
2025.



Jaden Ruttle and
Thea De Armond

Furstorians and Feathered Friends



Above: Meet Dr. Alex Standen's chickens
(Left to Right): Phoebe, Alma, and Lucia

Below: Meet Dr. Iñigo García-Bryce's dog Bibelot!



Above: Meet Mackenzie Ross's dog Zinger!
He's a big sweetheart who loves his plushy squeaky toys. He's a good boy and the best late-night study buddy!

Below: Meet Dr. Laura Hooton's dog, Rudy,
who sometimes comes to campus to give
cuddles to students and faculty alike.



Meet Dr. Jamie Bronstein's dog
Thorrin (left) and cat Willow (below)!



Alumni News

ATTENTION ALUMNI!
WE WANT TO FEATURE YOU NEXT ISSUE

PLEASE EMAIL HOOTON@NMSU.EDU WITH:
YOUR PREFERRED EMAIL
CURRENT EMPLOYMENT OR NEW POSITIONS
EXHIBITS/PUBLICATIONS/PRESENTATIONS
AWARDS/ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS
FAMILY UPDATES



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW HISTORY ALUMNI!

Honor Beeson (MA)
Matthias Borg
Katherine Burkhalter
Elvis Costello
Jesse Darsey
Andres Duarte
Griselda Garcia
Joel Gonzalez Parra
Grayson Harrington
Jennifer Hazlett
José Jiménez (MA)
Zuri Johnson
Emmanuel Limas
Madison Marino (MA)
Kenneth Podhajecki
Benjamin Ramsey
Mackenzie Ross (MA)
Marion Spragg
Lee Williams
James Wiseman