

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

It was a busy year again in the department. History faculty and students continued our streak of receiving an impressive number of awards, grants, and fellowships. Included are student articles from department outings, as well as updates on faculty and student research. And, of course, tons of photos from across the year.

This year I took over as Director of Graduate Studies, which includes our two MA degrees and our growing Master's Accelerated Program (MAP). Our Graduate Students outdid themselves this year with their enthusiasm and participation. At the Western History Association trip, a number of attendees commented on the attendance and caliber of our students - and were surprised to learn that many of our attendees were BA students. I am constantly impressed by our students.

If you did not receive this directly and would like to be added to yearly newsletter email list, please email me at 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.

DR. LAURA HOOTON (EDITOR)



Department of History

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

CHAIR'S CORNER

PUBLIC HISTORY POINT

PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

AWARDS & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

WHA TRIP 2025

JEMEZ CAMPING TRIP 2026

HISTORY OF PRISONS TRIP 2026

AROUND THE DEPARTMENT

FURSTORIANS & FEATHERED FRIENDS

ALUMNI NEWS

LINKS

OUR HOMEPAGE

UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM

MASTER'S ACCELERATED PROGRAM (MAP)

MA PROGRAMS

**AFFILIATED PHD:
TRANSBORDER AND GLOBAL HUMAN
DYNAMICS**



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

Chair's Corner

DR. ELIZABETH HORODOWICH, CHAIR



Hello from the Department of History!

It has been an exciting and eventful year for our department, with new faculty, new opportunities for students, and many accomplishments worth celebrating.

We were delighted in Fall 2025 to welcome Alex Standen as Assistant Professor of Environmental History in the Americas. Many of you already know Professor Standen from his two years with us as a visiting assistant professor, and we are thrilled that he has now joined our permanent faculty. His teaching and scholarship in environmental and labor history of the United States and Latin America have already made a strong impact on our students and departmental community.

In Spring 2026, Christopher Schurtz also joined the department in a full-time role teaching for NMSU Global. He is additionally serving as managing editor of *The Southern New Mexico Historical Review*, a longtime local history

journal that has now found a new editorial home in our department. The first issue produced here was released in spring of 2026 and featured work by undergraduate and graduate students, faculty, and local historians. We are especially proud to support a publication that gives students professional publishing experience while strengthening our ties to the wider community.

Students are also benefiting from a new experiential learning course, *Introduction to the Archives*, launched in Spring 2026. Taught by University Archivist Erin Wahl, the course gives undergraduate and graduate students hands-on training in archival work and will now be offered bi-annually. It is exactly the kind of practical, career-building experience we are eager to expand.

Our Doris Blaisdell Endowed Lecture Series, recently made possible through the generous support of the Blaisdell family, was in full swing this year. We welcomed an outstanding group of speakers: Paul Spickard (UC Santa Barbara), Tara López (Winona State University), David Rouff (UC Merced), and Adam Dean (Valles Caldera National Preserve). These events brought fresh ideas, lively conversations, and new connections to campus, and we look forward to many more in the years ahead.

We are also proud to celebrate the many honors earned by our students and faculty this year. Graduate student Sean Schifano received

(Continued on next page)

Chair's Corner Cont'd

the university-wide 2025 Outstanding Alumni Award for his public history research on Jewish history in New Mexico. Laura Hooton was recognized with the 2026 College of Arts & Sciences Outstanding Faculty Achievement in Outreach Award for her work sharing Black history in New Mexico. Thea De Armond and Alexander Standen each received Arts and Humanities Seed Grants in support of their book projects.

Our students continue to shine as well. Guinivere Mayse received the 2026 Social Justice Award for her work in local women's history, along with the College of Arts and Sciences Spirit of New Mexico Award. Whitney Anderson earned the College of Arts and Sciences Community Engagement for Social Justice Award. Most notably, Jerry Wallace was honored with the 2026 Heritage Preservation Individual Achievement Award in recognition of his public history work and community-centered preservation efforts.



L to R: Dr. Liz Horodowich, Pistol Pete, Sean Schifano (MA), and Dr. Jerry Wallace celebrate Sean's award (the highest bestowed by the Alumni Association) at the reception and luncheon in December



L to R: Laura Hooton and Liz Horodowich at the Arts & Sciences Faculty & Staff Awards Ceremony, Spring 2026

This year also brought a bittersweet farewell to Professor Mark Cioc-Ortega, who taught European History at NMSU for nine years and served as department head for five; he is retiring at the end of the 2025-26 academic year, when he will be concluding his time with us. We are deeply grateful for his years of service and leadership, and he will be greatly missed.

All of this is to say: the Department of History is thriving. We are proud of what our students, faculty, and alumni continue to accomplish. Please stay in touch—we look forward to hearing from you.

Liz Horodowich
Academic Department Head

Public History Point

DR. JERRY WALLACE, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HISTORY

Students in the Public History program had an exciting and successful year. There is a lot to celebrate!

In summer 2025, Regan Cadena successfully defended his public history internship report on the Manuel J. Lopez papers. In December 2026, Sean Schifano completed the program. Sean received the Dean's Outstanding Graduate Award for his work on Conversos and his impressive archival work with the State Records Center and Archives. Tracie Amend and Nicholas Pond graduated in spring 2026. Tracie had an amazing interactive public history defense. Tracie's public history article reflected on her successful Branigan Cultural Center museum exhibit in spring 2024. The program and the history department would like to wish Regan, Sean, Tracie, and Nicholas well in their professional endeavors.

Over the last year, public history students had a number of exciting internship opportunities. Caroline Henman received the John R. McFie Endowed Student Research Fellowship and Kenneth Podhajecki and Guinivere Mayse worked as NMSU archives summer interns working on processing the Mary Daniels Taylor papers housed in the Rio Grande Historic Collections. Van Collins interned with the Balloon Museum in Albuquerque and also during the summer of 2026 with the National Football Hall of Fame Museum in Canton, Ohio. Vanessa Herrera Delcid worked with the Center for Southwest Research this summer. In addition, Kenneth Podhajecki held a co-op position with the City of Las Cruces working on a number of historic preservation and urban planning projects.

Over the last year, public history students have been recognized for their community work. Tracie Amend and Van Collins worked with the Doña Ana Village Historic Preservation Committee.



The collaboration has led to a state historic marker application. Guinivere Mayse also partnered with the Town of Mesilla for a historical marker. Next year, we hope to celebrate the placement of these markers in our local communities. Guinivere Mayse was also recognized with the Spirit of New Mexico Award for her work on Mary Daniels Taylor.

The annual Historical Society of New Mexico Conference will be held in Cimarron, NM, September 17-19, 2026. If you are interested in attending the conference, please email Dr. Wallace or Dr. Hooton. Last year's conference was well attended by NMSU students.

The ongoing public history community-based project, *Murales Fronterizos*, has a website. Dr. Hooton is continuing to update and polish some of the content, but the website is usable and provides the latest updates on the project. Next year, we will update the murals in El Paso to add to the database.

In fall, Dr. Hooton's African Americans since 1865 class created an exhibit on campus, "New Mexico Black History Spotlights." The opening event had 150 people in attendance and was later visited by a home school group of at least 40. The exhibit moved to the Thomas Branigan Memorial Library, including a roundtable discussion. It will now be

(Continued on next page)

Public History Point (Cont'd)

on display throughout New Mexico, and is available to libraries to request for free.

In January 2026, the Doña Ana County Historical Society held its annual banquet. The reception was well attended, with over 100 people supporting the Public History program and the Historical Society. At the banquet the Southern New Mexico Historical Review released the 2026 Journal. Guinivere Mayse, Hannah Augustyniak, Hamed Azizangilan, and Gage Anderson's articles were featured in the SNMHR. Dr. Horodowich also had an article. Hannah's article won the Katherine B. Stoes award for Outstanding Writing, and Guinivere's article the Gemoets Prize for Outstanding Article. Congrats to all of the students for their hard work and recognition. In addition, the Public History program would like to thank Chris Schurtz for his dedication as the editor. The Journal's success would not have been possible without the help of Tracie Amend. She edited a number of articles from history students. If you are interested in submitting an article, please contact Chris Schurtz at cschurtz@nmsu.edu. The deadline for the 2027 journal is 1 October 2026.

The Doña Ana County Historical Society hosts a monthly lecture series the third Thursday of nearly every month. Tracie Amend and Steve Kobs presented their work on Borderlands Theaters and actors in March and April 2026. DACHS is setting the lecture series for fall 2026 and spring 2027. If you are interested in presenting your work (it needs to be regional history), please get in touch with Dr. Wallace.

In April 2027, NMSU will host a NMSU-UTEP "History Conference." The conference is

scheduled for April 3, 9-4 PM. The conference will have four one-hour panels for graduate and undergraduate students to present their original research work. This conference is designed to give students an opportunity to fulfill the public presentation requirement. There will be prizes for the best papers. Lunch and snacks will be provided.

The history department and public history program would like to welcome incoming graduate students Eric Acosta, Joel Gonzalez Parra, Luis Martinez Paz, Guinivere Mayse, and Frederico Munoz. We are excited and look forward to supporting your work.

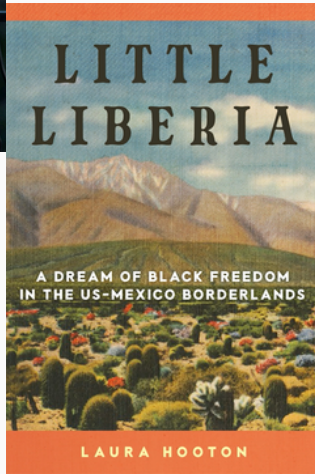
Congratulations to Hamed Azizangilan! He starts his first semester in the Transborder Ph.D. program in fall 2026. He is currently working on a community-based research project that examines music in the borderlands. Best of luck, Hamed!

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*, 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. He is also part of the editorial board for the *New Mexico Historical Review*.

Publications & Presentations

NEW FACULTY BOOKS



Dr. Laura Hooton's first monograph, *Little Liberia: A Dream of Black Freedom in the US-Mexico Borderlands*, was published in June 2026 with Oklahoma University Press as part of the Race and Culture in the American West Series. It is the first full telling of the history of Little Liberia, a transborder activist agricultural community in Baja California, Mexico in the early twentieth century. Formed by African American businessmen chiefly from California and Oklahoma, Little Liberia promoted Black innovation and cross-cultural enterprise at a time of racial persecution and political turbulence. Hooton looks at Little Liberia as a intersection of Black spaces and borderlands places, as well as its involvement in Mexican politics and contributions to resistance to White supremacy.

ARTICLES

Student and Faculty Articles in the *Southern New Mexico Historical Review* (January 2026):

Tracie Amend (MA), Book Review - *Raid and Reconciliation: Pancho Villa, Modernization, and Violence in the U.S.-Mexico Borderlands*

Gage Anderson (BA), "Tijerina's Ghost: Chilili and the Sovereignty of New Mexico Land Grants"

Hannah Augustyniak (BA), "The Wednesday Literary Club: The Role of Women in Las Cruces, 1940-1974"

Hamed Azizangilan (MA), "Echoes in the Valley: The Tale of Las Cruces and Mesilla"

Van Collins (MA), Book Review - *Nuclear Nuevo México: Colonialism and the Effects of the Nuclear Industrial Complex on Nuevomexicanos*

Elizabeth Horodowich, "New Mexico, China, and India: The Asian Visions of Sixteenth-Century Conquistadors in the *Tierra Nueva*"

Guinivere Mayse (BA), "Women Belong on Campus: The College Life of Mary Daniels"

Kenneth Podhajecki (MA), Book Review - *Guadalupe Mountains National Park: An Environmental History of the Southwest Borderlands*



L to R: Hannah Augustyniak and Guinivere Mayse receive awards for their *SNMHR* articles, joined by Dr. Jerry Wallace

Publications & Presentations (Cont'd)

CONFERENCES, PRESENTATIONS, & EXHIBITS

Tracie Almend (MA)

- "Zohn and Medoff: Setting the Scene in Southern New Mexico," Doña Ana County Historical Society (Las Cruces, NM)

Hamed Aziziangilan (MA)

- "Ira Moskowitz and the Cultural Landscape of New Mexico," New Mexico-Arizona History Conference (Las Cruces, NM)
- "(Hi)Storytelling: New Mexico, Relationality, and Identity in Huxley's Brave New World," Western History Association Conference (Albuquerque, NM) - pictured below



Dr. Thea De Armond

- "A Free Speech Fight in New Mexico: State v. Diamond," New Mexico-Arizona History Conference (Las Cruces, NM) - pictured above
- "Recreating at a Site of Atrocity in Central Europe," Archaeological Institute of America (San Francisco, CA)
- Worked at Valles Caldera National Park, Summer 2025

Dr. Iñigo García-Bryce

- "Materiales Educativos Disponibles en Línea para Cursos de Historia Latinoamericana" (Open Access Resources for Teaching Latin American History), Rocky Mountain Conference for Latin American Studies (Puebla, Mexico)

Dr. Laura Hooton

- "Little Liberia: A Transnational and Polycultural Anti-White Supremacy Movement," American Studies Association Conference (San Juan, Puerto Rico)
- "Early Twentieth Century African Americans in Mexico" (Camp Naco - [Virtual](#))

Dr. Jerry Wallace

- "Trost & Trost: Preserving the Engelbrechts' Legacy," New Mexico-Arizona History Conference (Las Cruces, NM)

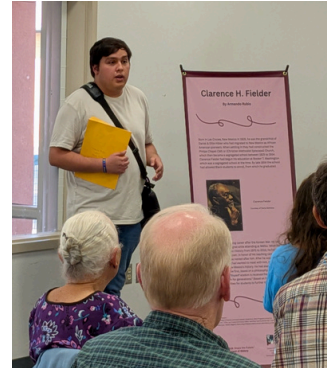
Publications & Presentations (Cont'd)

CONFERENCES, PRESENTATIONS, & EXHIBITS (CONT'D)



Left: Waiting for Hamed's presentation at the WHA conference in October

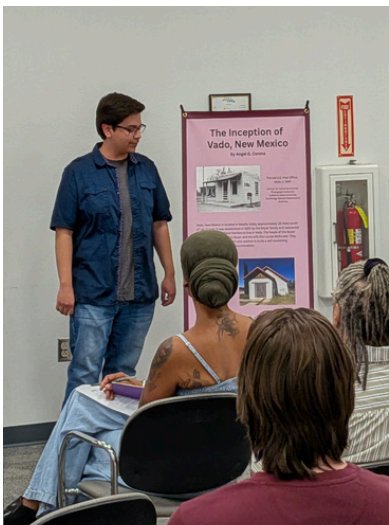
Right: Armando Rubio presents his work on Clarence Fielder at the Black History Spotlights roundtable event at the Thomas Branigan Memorial Library in March



Sean Schifano (MA)

- "Going Public: Oral History, Educational Spaces, and the Converso Legacy Archives," Society for Crypto-Judaic Studies Conference (Los Angeles, CA)
- "Converso Descent: A Global Gaze through New Mexican Eyes," New Mexico-Arizona History Conference (Las Cruces, NM), reprised as a public talk given at Temple Beth-El in Las Cruces
- "Conversing with Conversos: Iberian Pasts through American Presents" Western History Association Conference (Albuquerque, NM)
- "The Converso Legacy Archives," Preserving History and Democracy podcast (S5E14), Doña Ana County Clerk's Office, <https://youtu.be/jbyRRptm5yg>

Dr. Wallace, Dr. Hooton, and collaborators from UTEP and EPCC presented on Murales Fronterizos at the New Mexico-Arizona History Conference.



Left: Angel Corno presents his work on Vado at the roundtable event at the Branigan Library



Above, L to R: Lacey Raykovics, Marcia Boyer, Guinivere Mayse, and Cassandra Thomas after their successful roundtable conversation at the Branigan Library

Awards and Acknowledgements

FACULTY

Dr. Thea De Armond

- Arts & Humanities Seed Grant Awardee

Dr. Iñigo García-Bryce

- *Haya de la Torre y la Búsqueda del Poder* has been nominated by Penguin-Random House for the 2026 Premio de Nacional de Literatura (National Literary Prize) in Peru.

Dr. Laura Hooton

- 2026 College of Arts & Sciences Outstanding Faculty Achievement in Outreach Award (for work on local African American history projects)

Dr. Jerry Wallace

- 2026 Heritage Preservation Individual Achievement Award by the Cultural Properties Review Committee of the State of New Mexico (CPRC)

Dr. Alex Standen

- Arts & Humanities Seed Grant Awardee
- Under contract with UNC Press for *Storms, Strikes, and Sugarcane: The Making of the Puerto Rican New Deal*



Above: Dr. Laura Hooton and students in the African American history class at the opening of their exhibit. For more information see [NMSU's news article](#)

Below, L to R: Dr. Laura Hooton, Dr. Ken Hammond, Sean Schifano (MA), Dr. Liz Horodowich, and Hamed Azizangilan (MA) at the Arts & Sciences Awards Ceremony for Sean's Outstanding Graduate Award, Fall 2025



Dr. Alex Standen and Dr. Alejandra Marks (Anthropology) welcomed baby Ana Belén into the world in October 2025, and she immediately captured our hearts.

**WELCOME TO
THE HISTORY DEPARTMENT FAMILY
ANA BELÉN!**

Awards and Acknowledgements

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

Abigail Anderson

- Kathleen Williams Memorial Scholarship

Whitney Anderson

- College of Arts & Sciences Community Engagement for Social Justice Award

Hannah Augustyniak

- Fabián García Memorial Scholarship
- Doña Ana County Historical Society Katherine B. Stoes Prize for outstanding writing or historical editing in the current issue of *Southern New Mexico Historical Review*

Adam Kent

- Outstanding History Major Award

Guinivere Mayse

- 2026 NMSU Social Justice Award
- College of Arts & Sciences New Mexico Spirit Award
- Doña Ana County Historical Society Gemoets Prize for the Outstanding Article in the most recent *Southern New Mexico Historical Review*

Jolene Peabody

- Kathleen Williams Memorial Scholarship

Lacey Raykovics

- History Department Scholarship

Dani Ruiz

- Clark-Kropp Scholarship in History

Angela Valdez

- Fabián García Memorial Scholarsh

Braxton Zink

- Outstanding Senior History Major Award

GRADUATE STUDENTS

Hamed Aziziangilan

- Arts & Sciences Graduate Travel Award
- Will be starting in the NMSU Transborder & Global Human Dynamics program in Fall

Van Collins

- For summer 2026 received internship positions at the National Football League Hall of Fame and the Major League Baseball Hall of Fame. He is spending his summer at the NFL Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio.

Sean Schifano

- NMSU Alumni Association Outstanding Graduate Award
- Arts & Sciences Outstanding Graduate Award
- Inductee - Phi Kappa Phi
- After the successful defense of his public history article, he transferred 30 linear feet, over 7 gigabytes of digital files, and 20 terabytes of film footage - the Converso Legacy Archives - to Jonathan Pringle, New Mexico's state archivist, and is in the final stages of processing with the State Records Center and Archives (SRCA).

Joshua Venegas

- Monroe Billington Outstanding Thesis Award
- Will be starting in the PhD program at UNM for Chicana/o Studies in Fall

The Department on the Road: Western History Association 2025

GUINIVERE MAYSE (BA)

Last October, I had the opportunity to attend the Western History Association (WHA) Conference alongside Dr. Laura Hooton, Dr. Jerry Wallace, and ten fellow students. As an undergraduate, attending a national conference was an invaluable experience that allowed me to engage with historians, graduate students, museum professionals, archivists, and publishers from across the country. It was exciting to see firsthand the breadth of scholarship being produced in western and borderlands history while also gaining a better understanding of the many career paths available within the historical profession.



One of the most rewarding aspects of the conference was the opportunity to network. Whether attending panel discussions, speaking with public historians about preservation projects across New Mexico, or sharing meals and conversations with publishers and scholars, every interaction offered new perspectives on the field. I also strengthened friendships within the department while building new professional connections that I hope to maintain throughout my career.



L to R: Kenneth Podhajecki(MA) and Anslee Romans (MA) explore an ABQ bookstore

The conference also had a direct impact on my own research. The book exhibit introduced me to numerous publications that have already become valuable resources for my academic work. Exploring new scholarship broadened my understanding of how local and micro-historical studies connect to larger historical narratives, encouraging me to think more critically about the ways individual communities shape broader historical developments. Not to mention how it developed my personal library!



Top Right, L to R: Camrin Blake, Jaden Ruttle, and Sean Schifano (MA) at a conference reception

Above L to R: Guinivere Mayse, Kenneth Podhajecki (MA), Anslee Romans (MA), Van Collins (MA), Jaden Ruttle, Camrin Blake, Sean Schifano (MA), Christian Kilgore, Braxton Zink, Beck Martinez, and Dr. Jerry Wallace with Hamed Aziziangilan (MA, center) after his presentation

I am incredibly grateful to Dr. Laura Hooton and the NMSU History Department for making this opportunity possible. Attending the conference was both inspiring and professionally enriching, and it reinforced my passion for historical research and public history. Experiences like these provide students with the confidence, connections, and resources needed to take the next steps in their academic and professional careers.

The Department on the Road: Jemez Camping Trip 2026

ANSLEE ROMANS (MA)



On April 24-25, several students and professors from the History and Anthropology departments took a camping trip up to Northern New Mexico. Organized by Dr. Thea De Armond, this trip was an excellent way for us to explore the different ways that history is shown in the environment. On the drive to our campsite, we were able to stop at several different historic, prehistoric, and scenic spots. This included stops in Jemez Springs, the Jemez Springs Historic Site, and the Soda Dam, and a hike at the Jemez Pueblo Slot Canyon. We set up camp at the Ponderosa Group Campground, which was located near Los Alamos in the Bandelier National Monument. After camping for the night, some of us went on an optional hike in Bandelier. On this hike, we explored the Alcove House, which included climbing a series of ladders 140 feet up to the prehistoric carved out space.



After our hike in Bandelier, we visited Valles Caldera National Preserve, where Dr. Adam Dean, Park Historian at Valles Caldera, gave us a thorough tour of one of forest-covered volcanic domes. Dr. Dean had previously given a lecture on some of the history of the Caldera at NMSU. Our tour included a long hike through a volcanic dome, where we learned more about Valles Caldera, with nature as our backdrop. After visiting the Caldera, we started our journey back to Southern New Mexico, with a stop along the way for an early dinner at Frontier Restaurant in Albuquerque.

On this trip, we were able to experience a myriad of historic and prehistoric examples of history in New Mexico, while also having a

lot of fun. This was a great bonding experience for us all, bringing graduate students, undergraduate students, and professors closer through nature and learning. I know I had a blast!



Top L to R: Dr. Kelly Jenks (Anthropology), Dr. Katie Richards (Anthropology), Van Collins (MA), Anslee Romans (MA)

Left, L to R: Dr. Liz Horodowich, Braxton Zink, Van Collins (MA), Camrin Blake, Kenneth Podhajecki (MA), Anslee Romans (MA), Beck Martinez, Christian Kilgore, Trenton White, Dr. Thea De Armond

The Department on the Road: History of Prisons Trip 2026

JOLENE PEABODY (BA)

This April, students of Dr. De Armond's History of Prisons and Incarceration class were given the opportunity to tour the Southern New Mexico Correctional Facility (SNMCF). Attendees were able to see the prison yard, enter medium- and minimum-security level pods and cells, and interact with both prison staff and incarcerated people. The trip was an enlightening highlight of the class's curriculum, which focused heavily on the experiences of real people incarcerated throughout history. Over the course of the semester, students read real, historical accounts from those impacted by carceral systems, but the experience of meeting prison staff and incarcerated people revealed a much deeper nuance to the *community* that exists within a prison.

The tour began with meeting corrections officers. Their career focuses on trying to keep control in an environment that many deem unsafe. Oftentimes they are portrayed in popular culture as uncaring, but many of these people worked hard to support the rehabilitation of people in prison.

After meeting staff, students were able to have conversations with inmates about their daily lives within the prison, including men involved with the PAWS program (Prisoners and Animals Working for Success). The PAWS program pairs a rescue dog with an eligible inmate who is then responsible for their training and care. These men introduced us to their dogs, and told us about their experiences with the program. They said it had done a lot to encourage "clean conduct," so that they could continue with the program, along with giving them something

to look forward to every day. These dogs are healthy and loved, and being able to interact with them and their handlers displayed to students how meaningful the PAWS program has been to the residents of SNMCF. Another group of inmates was in charge of tending to a large garden in the prison yard. That program was introduced and maintained by a corrections officer, who started the garden herself and has now entrusted it to inmates. The men are able to keep any of the food they grow, and share it within their cell block. They were very proud of the impressive patch they had cultivated, and it was obvious how much time, effort, and passion they had put into every aspect. One man told us that they were always on the lookout for new seeds and bulbs, along with opportunities to learn new gardening techniques.

It is clear that many COs and prison administration are doing everything they can to make prison a rehabilitative experience, but resources are stretched thin. Much of the yard lacks shade for men to escape the sun during midday outdoor time. Many clubs, including sports teams, woodshop, and crochet club have been shut down, due to lack of manpower and supplies required to run them. Lockdowns are frequent, which make programs like education, psychiatric care, PAWS, and gardening even more difficult. That's why the class decided to run a book drive for the prison library (we collected more than 180 books!).

The class is grateful to prison administrators and staff who invited them into their world to learn about their experiences, and to the incarcerated residents of SNMCF who welcomed them and openly shared details about their day-to-day lives. The conversations greatly impacted and deepened students' understanding of the subject, and offered a perspective-shifting glimpse into modern incarceration.

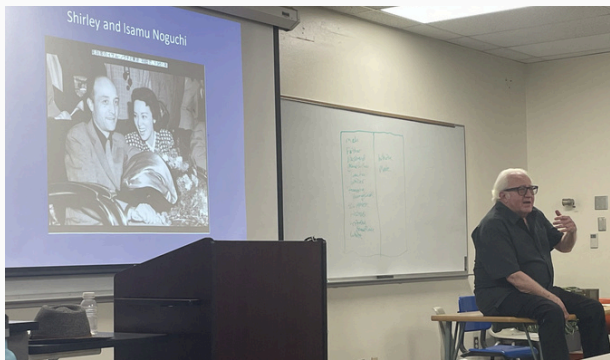
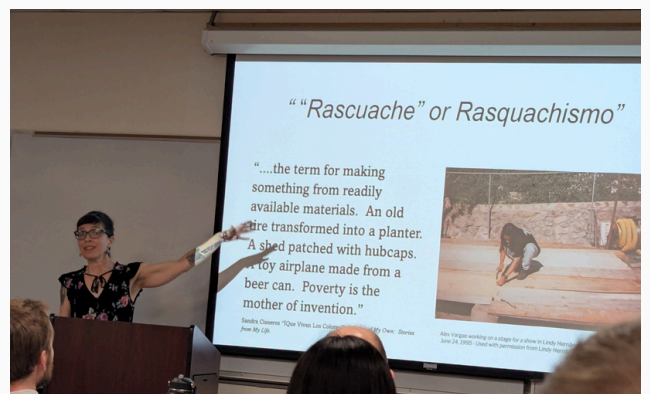


L to R: Anslee Romans (MA), Dr. Thea De Armond dropping off over 180 books to SNMCF on behalf of the book drive. They were met by Librarian Dallas Velasquez and College Coordinator Frank Ballesteros

Around the Department: Lecture Series



Clockwise, from top left:
Standing room only for Dr. Tara López's presentation on punk rock in El Paso; dinner with Dr. David Rouff; Dr. Hooton and her mentor Dr. Paul Spickard after his talk; Dr. David Rouff discusses Chinese immigrants in Merced, California; Dr. López covers important terminology; dinner with Dr. Adam Dean; Dr. Spickard discusses examples of racial shape shifting, Dr. Dean discusses the role of the Hemish people in shaping the ecology of the Jemez Mountains



Around the Department: End Of Semester Awards Events

We continued our new tradition of holding an end of semester awards ceremony and potluck. We gave roses to graduating students, and in Spring bid farewell to Dr. Mark Cioc-Ortega. Both semesters also continued the trivia competition rivalry. Winning teams the last two years received bright green shirts found in the department from a past New Mexico History Day. Keep an eye out for them in pictures!



Around the Department: End Of Semester Awards Photos



Abigail Anderson



Dani Ruiz



Angela Valdez



Lacey Raykovics



Jolene Peabody



Joshua Venegas (MA)



Braxton Zink

Around the Department: End Of Semester Awards Trivia



This year's winning teams:

Left (L to R): Vanessa Herrera Delcid (MA),
Van Collins (MA), Kenneth Podhajecki (MA),
Dr. Jamie Bronstein (MA) and spouse Mike.

Below (L to R): Camrin Blake, Van Collins
(MA), Kenneth Podhajecki (MA), Carolyn
Harford (MA), Vanessa Herrera Delcid (MA)



Department of History



Around the Department: History Coffee Hour



This academic year we have had a monthly coffee hour, bringing together faculty, graduate students, and undergraduates. Each coffee hour included freshly-baked treats, coffee, and tea. Thank you to department bakers Anslee Romans (MA), Van Collins (MA), Dr. Jamie Bronstein, Dr. Liz Horodowich, and Dr. Laura Hooton. A big thank you to Dr. Thea De Armond for organizing!



Around the Department: Faculty Adventures



Clockwise, from top:

Dr. Alex Standen at the Archivo de Indias in Sevilla Spain in June 2026. He was there for research on the environmental history of the Mona Passage.

Dr. Laura Hooton in June 2026 at the Library of Congress with Manuscript Reference Librarian Edie Sandler (Dr. Hooton's oldest friend!). She was looking at histories of Buffalo Soldiers in Mexico.

Dr. Jamie Bronstein traveling in summer 2025.

Dr. Hooton's panel at the ASA in November 2025 (L to R): Dr. George Sánchez, Dr. Lauren Araiza, Dr. Hooton, Dr. Tyina Steptoe



Around the Department: Graduate Program Highlights



Clockwise from top: Sean Schifano's (MA) committee after his successful defense of his public history article, L to R: Dr. Erin Wahl, Dr. Liz Horodowich, Sean, Dr. David L. Graizbord (University of Arizona), Dr. Jerry Wallace, Fall 2025.



Joshua Venegas' (MA) committee celebrating after his successful defense, L to R: Dr. Laura Hooton, Josh, Mel Espinoza (Josh's partner), Dr. Joyce Garay, Dr. Thea De Armond, Spring 2026.

Tracie Amend (MA) defending her public history article, Spring 2026.

The audience for Sean Schifano's defense.

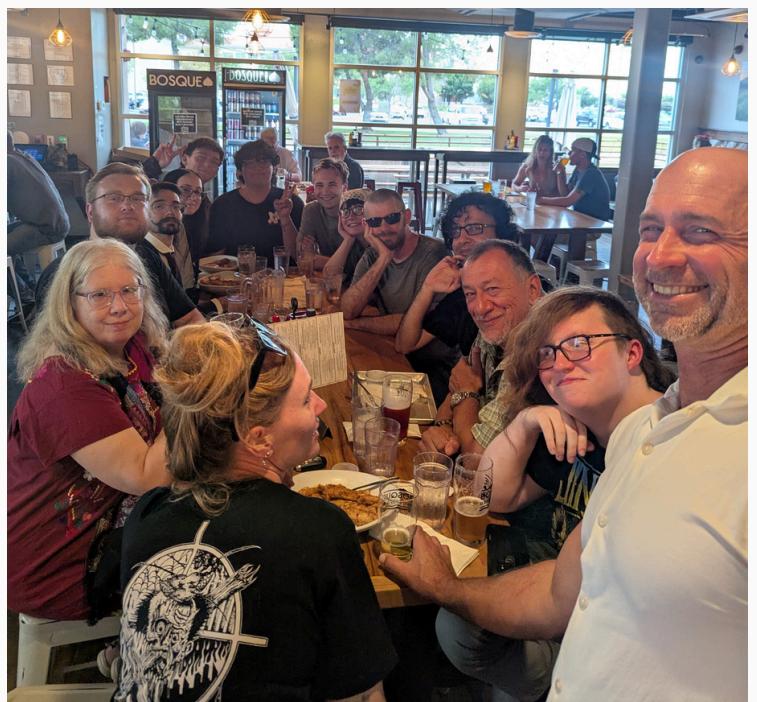
Graduate and undergraduate students perform a scene from *Red Ryder* as part of Tracie Amend's defense.



Around the Department: Photo Gallery

WEDNESDAYS AT BOSQUE & SPOTTED DOG

Faculty, students, alumni, and friends gather weekly at a local watering hole for food, drinks, and camaraderie, continuing a tradition started by Dr. Ken Hammond years ago. When Bosque closed, we moved to Spotted Dog in Mesilla. You can find us most Wednesday afternoons - feel free to stop by!



Furstorians and Feathered Friends



Above: Professor Horodowich's Cuddles and Bianca

Below: Professor Hooton's dogs (L to R):
Benny and Rudy

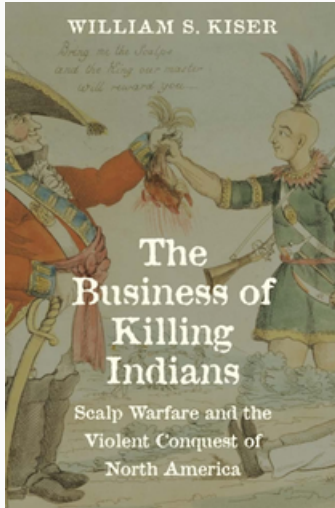


Above: Professor Alex Standen's new silkie,
Chica

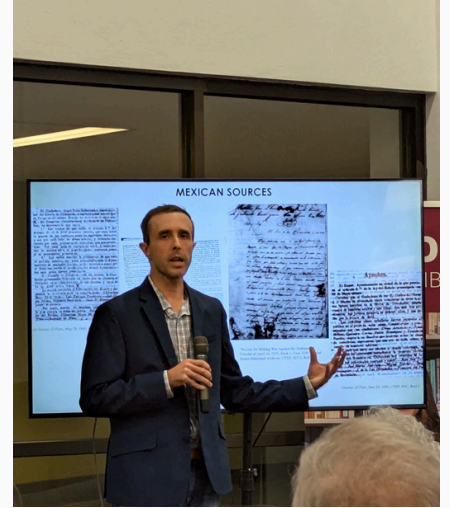
Below: Anslee Roman's dogs. Mickie is the
short one, and Dewey is the much taller one.



Alumni News



Dr. William (Billy) Kiser published his sixth book, *The Business of Killing Indians: Scalp Warfare and the Violent Conquest of North America* (Yale, 2025). He returned to NMSU in April 2026 to talk about the book as part of the Borderland History Lectures at the NMSU Library (pictured on right). He is currently Chair of the Department of History, Philosophy, and Geography at Texas A&M University - San Antonio.



Theodore Hahn gave a talk at the Columbus Library for the Columbus Historical Society on September 27, 2025. He also was largely responsible for cataloging the Richard and Betty Dean Archive of Southwest/Borderlands History at CHS, and is a member of the board.

The department is grateful to Gus Seligmann (class of 1958) for the creation of the *G.L. Seligmann and Ira G. Clark Endowed Fund for Public History*, which will support a scholarship for a NMSU student in public history.

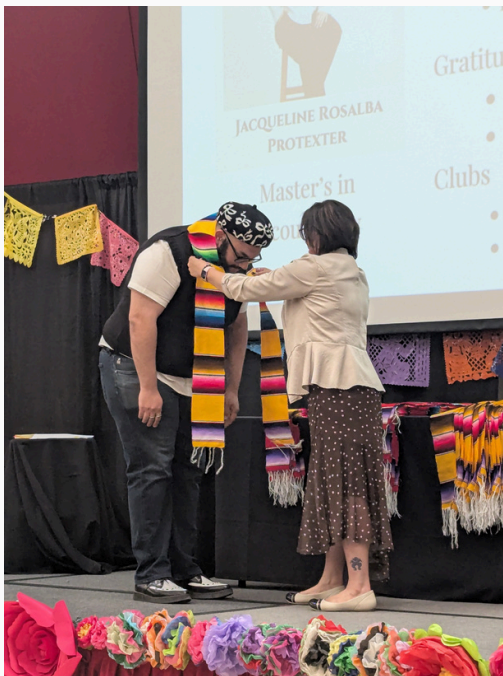


While in Albuquerque for the WHA, we were joined by alum Madison Marino for Sean Schifano's presentation. Afterward, she joined us for a special tour of the the Anderson Abruzzo International Balloon Museum. Van Collins (MA) interned at the museum and arranged a behind-the-scenes tour of the museum and its collections. A special thank you to Rachel Blomquist and the staff for the fantastic tour!

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!

Tracie Amend (MA)
Gage Anderson
Whitney Anderson
Regan Cadena (MA)
Angel Corona
Abdurrahman Hamedi
Alex Itomitsu
José Jiménez (MA)
Alexander Jones
Adam Kent
Fernando Madrid
Guinivere Mayse
Reynaldo Morales
Frederico Munoz
Nicolas Pond (MA)
Lacey Raykovics
Armando Rubio
Dominic Sambrano
Sean Schifano (MA)
Nevaeh Smith
Joshua Tellez
Mariah Valdez
Joshua Venegas (MA)
Enrique Vigil
Michael Wight
Braxton Zink