



DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY

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DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY

Department Convocation
Fall 2024
Spring 2025 Summer
2025

Administrative Staff

Jennifer George
Department Administrator

Hannah Agnew
Sr. Academic Advisor
Undergraduate Program

Benedict Talley
Coordinator of Student & Graduate Programs

Carla Sarracino
Coordinator of Education Support

JoNella Vasquez
Accountant

Tracy Le
Administrative Assistant

On behalf of the faculty and staff of the
Department of Anthropology,
congratulations to the outstanding
graduating classes of 2024-2025!

Cover Photo: Mosaic, by Jennifer George

**UNM Department of
Anthropology**

Convocation Ceremony

**May 17, 2025
1:00 PM**

Reception Following Graduation
Anthropology Lawn
(food in 178)

**Music by
Convocation Consort**

**Bruce Thomson, Rob Huffman, Cleve Sharp
Pat Aruffo, Bill Balassi**

The department's first three baccalaureate and two master's degrees were conferred in 1931-32, and the first PhD was conferred in 1948. As of today, the department has awarded more than 2500 baccalaureate and master's degrees and 387 PhDs.

Anthropology is the most inclusive discipline in the arts and sciences with the greatest breadth of interests encompassing the entire human experience. The discipline challenges students at the undergraduate and graduate levels to explore the dimensions of culture and biology in their lives and those of others. The three subfields of Archaeology, Sociocultural & Linguistic Anthropology (Formerly Ethnology), and Evolutionary Anthropology encompass a variety of perspectives and methods through which the lens of culture is applied to human diversity and change in the past, present and future.

Department History

The University of New Mexico was founded in 1889, twenty-three years before the territory became the forty-seventh state in 1912. Its seventh president, James F. Zimmerman, for whom the library is named, was responsible for initiating the Department of Anthropology in the College of Arts and Sciences in 1928, early in the history of anthropology in the United States. Annual summer field schools, a program begun by Edgar Lee Hewett in 1928, have continued at various sites in the Southwest and elsewhere.

The expansion of the department's faculty, its growing student success, as well as its far-reaching reputation have been noteworthy over the many decades. Six faculty members taught anthropology in 1945. Today, there are 24 faculty members, who work with outstanding students in North and South America, Europe, the Middle East, Africa, Asia, and the Pacific.

Convocation Program

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Dr. Sherry Nelson
Chair, Department of Anthropology

Dr. Carla Sinopoli
Director, Maxwell Museum of Anthropology

Special Guest Speakers

Citlali Tierney
(BS, Archaeology)

Ruizhe Liu
(PhD, Evolutionary Anthropology)

Convocation Program
Presentation of Graduates

Presented by Dr. Sherry Nelson

Fall 2024 Undergraduates

Spring/Summer 2025 Undergraduates

Spring/Summer 2025 Anthropology Honors
Undergraduates

Fall 2024 Master's Graduates

Spring/Summer 2025 Master's Graduates

Fall 2024 Doctoral Graduates

Spring/Summer 2025 Doctoral Graduates

The Florence Hawley Ellis
Reading Room
**(in the Clark Field Archive and
Library)**



Summer 2025
Doctoral Graduates

Katherine Brewer
(PhD, Archaeology)

Dissertation: *Catholic Conversion and Native Burial Practices in the U.S. Southwest*
(Chair: Dr. Patricia Crown)

Joseph Birkmann
(PhD, Archaeology)

Dissertation: *A Long, Static Prelude to the Ceramic Producing Southwestern Cultures of the Christian Era: The Archaic Occupation of New Mexico and Southern Arizona*
(Chair: Dr. Michael Graves)

Ruizhe Liu
(PhD, Evolutionary Anthropology)

Dissertation: *Does reliance on Kin erode with market Integration? A social network perspective*
(Chair: Dr. Melissa Emery Thompson)

Cassie Smith
(PhD, Sociocultural & Linguistic Anthropology)
Dissertation: *Making the MACC: Communities of Practice and Cultural Citizenship in Austin, Texas*
(Chair: Dr. Catherine Rhodes)

Fall 2024
Bachelor of Arts or Sciences

Christopher Baca, BA
Dina Butcher, BA
Joshua Dannenberg, BA
Serena Finger, BS
Toni Marino, BA
Jon-Michael, BA
Melissa Sanchez, BA
Lauren Sanchez, BA

Spring 2025
Bachelor of Arts or Sciences

Sabrina D. Barber, BA
Sofia N. Begaye, BA
Maxwell T. Bode, BA
Sanai Broxton, BA
Trinity J. Cooper, BA
Benjamin A. Eckert, BA
Dominic S. Garcia, BA
Sarah M. Goldberg, BA
Jordan Lujan, BA
Rachel M. McCarthy, BA
Autumn A. Myerscough, BS
Jaaziel A. Salazar, BA
Kyra Z. Schmoker, BA
Edyth M. Seymour, BS
Jerry M. Sloan, BA
Ayla K. Taylor, BA
Skyler J. Torres, BA
Nekesia Tulley, BA

Summer 2025
Master of Arts or Science

Mark Harvey
(MA, Public Archaeology)

Eleanor Matthews
(MS, Evolutionary Anthropology)

Cecilia Sena
(MA, Evolutionary Anthropology)

Spring 2025 Doctoral Graduates

Megan Cole

(PhD, Evolutionary Anthropology)

Dissertation: *Physiological regulation and paths to social status in Chimpanzees*
(Chair: Dr. Melissa Emery Thompson)

Sarah Leiter

(PhD, Sociocultural & Linguistic Anthropology)

Dissertation: *Becoming Sephardic: Historical Consciousness and Emergent Ethnoreligious Identification in New Mexico*
(Chair: Dr. Suzanne Oakdale)

Paulina Przystupa

(PhD, Archaeology)

Dissertation: *Americans: Socialization, Assimilation, and Resistance at American Children's Institutions*
(Chair: Dr. Patricia Crown)

Katherine Williams

(PhD, Archaeology)

Dissertation: *Architecture and the Organization of Labor at Tsegi Phase (AD 1250-1300) Cliff Dwellings, Navajo National Monument*
(Chair: Dr. Patricia Crown)

Spring 2025 Undergraduate Honors

My Linh Lucero

Summa Cum Laude

(BS, Human Biology)

Thesis: *The Effects of Industrialization on Chronic Pain: Chronic Musculoskeletal Pain among the Turkana of Northern Kenya*
Advisor: Ian Wallace

Kayla McPherson

Magna Cum Laude

(BS, Archaeology)

Thesis: *Piecing Together the Past: Mapping Cypriot Pottery in Hittite Archaeological Contexts to Analyze Patterns of Trade & Exchange*
Advisor: Dr. Carla Sinopoli

Citlali A. Tierney

Cum Laude

(BS, Archaeology)

Thesis: *Sex, Stress, and Stable Isotopes and Biomechanical stress analyses to understand sex-based behaviors in the middle Holocene Neotropics.*
Advisor: Dr. Keith Prufer

Summer 2025
Bachelor of Arts or Science

Andre K. Appleby, BS
Sarah M. Bates, BS
Hailey M. Himmelright, BA
Craig L. Jones, BS
Anthony Lucero, BA
Isabella R. Stock, BS

Fall 2024
Master of Arts or Science

Esther Garcia
(MA, Sociocultural & Linguistic Anthropology)

Jordan Martinez
(MS, Evolutionary Anthropology)

Anuska Mohapatra
(MS, Evolutionary Anthropology)

Spring 2025
Master of Arts or Science

Karen Assaf
(MA, Sociocultural & Linguistic Anthropology)

Kate Nielsen
(MA, Sociocultural & Linguistic Anthropology)

Tyler Volpe
(MA, Sociocultural & Linguistic Anthropology)