



ORGANIZATION,
INFORMATION &
LEARNING SCIENCES



OILS
CONVOCAATION
SPRING 2025



May 17, 2025 • 3:00 pm • Zimmerman Library

THANK YOU

Organization, Information & Learning Sciences Faculty

Dr. Leo S. Lo, Dean

Dr. Mark Emmons, Associate Dean

Amy Jackson, Associate Dean

Dr. Victor Law, Associate Professor and Program Director

Dr. Amir Hedayati-Mehdiabadi, Associate Professor

Dr. Sung Pil Kang, Associate Professor and Associate Program Director

Dr. Stephanie Moore, Associate Professor

Dr. Vanessa Svihla, Professor

Dr. Oleksandr Tkachenko, Associate Professor

Dr. Adam Papendieck, Assistant Professor

Program Staff

Christopher Larrañaga, OILS Program Manager

Benjamin Henrique, Student Administrative Assistant

UNM INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' LAND AND TERRITORY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Founded in 1889, the University of New Mexico sits on the traditional homelands of the Pueblo of Sandia.

The original peoples of New Mexico – Pueblo, Navajo, and Apache – since time immemorial, have deep connections to the land and have made significant contributions to the broader community statewide.

We honor the land itself and those who remain stewards of this land throughout the generations and also acknowledge our committed relationship to Indigenous peoples.

We gratefully recognize our history.

Developed by the Special Assistant for American Indian Affairs to the UNM President in consultation with the Native American Faculty Council.

Approved and adopted by President Garnett S. Stokes February 2020

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Lisa Kittinger:

- God
- My husband, Rob
- My children
- Dr. Victor Law
- My employer

Jennifer Snyder:

Jennifer would like to thank the entire OILS staff, especially Dr. Oleksandr Tkachenko and Dr. Victor Law, for their belief in her and guidance in coursework and professional development. A special thanks as well to her friends and family, especially Jill Cochran and Nichole Jackson for their time spent as mentors. She would also like to thank her amazing parents, Glenn and Nancy, for their support, and her partner Paul for being her rock during this time.

Maria Blair:

I am where I am because of the love and mercy I received from my savior, Jesus. My life's journey would not be where it is without my husband's love and support, my children, and my friends. Accomplishing this degree was not a one-woman show, I had friends who tutored me with Spanish, Algebra and read my papers before I discovered Grammarly. To my friends and family, thank you.

Jonella Vasquez:

I'd like to thank first and foremost God. I'd also like to thank the OILS staff and faculty: Dr. Victor Law, Dr. Oleksandr Tkachenko and Dr. Linda Barril and my biggest supporters my mom, Melinda E. Vasquez and my sisters JoLeen E. Vasquez and LaShawnta Davis-Singh.

Dayra Fallad-Mendoza:

I am deeply grateful to God for the opportunity to pursue this dream and for blessing me with the most amazing village to help make my PhD a reality. I could not have done this without the love, patience and support of my husband, kiddos and my mom. To my committee—thank you for geeking out with me over my dissertation, sharing of your time, your wisdom, and pushing me to have a dissertation I can truly be proud of. Your encouragement meant the world!

Matthew Gallegos:

Thank you to my family for all your support and encouragement! Special thank you to my advisor Dr. Vanessa Svihla for guiding me through the process.

Organization, Information & Learning Sciences Graduation

A celebration.....

A time for looking back on lessons learned, adventures shared, bright moments filled with special meaning

A farewell.....

*A time for saying goodbye to old friends,
to good times you've known...a time for packing away memories,
treasures for tomorrow*

A beginning.....

*A time for looking forward, a time to set new goals,
to dream new dreams, to try your wings and see what lies beyond*

Congratulations Graduate!

May 17, 2025

PROGRAM

Welcome

Dr. Mark Emmons, Associate Dean
College of University Libraries & Learning Sciences

Introduction of OILS Faculty

Dr. Victor Law, Associate Professor
and Program Director of OILS

Introduction of Student Speakers

Dr. Victor Law, Associate Professor
and Program Director of OILS

Student Speakers

Maria Blair, B.S.
I can do all things through Him who gives me strength!

Jennifer Snyder, M.A.
The Power of Your Story

Lisa Kittinger, Ph.D.
Balancing Life and Learning

Recognition of Graduates

Dr. Mark Emmons, Associate Dean

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GRADUATES

Bachelor of Science

Maria Blair +	Jasper Mapes
Dani Brave	Lizbeth Nava
Tammy Crawford	Victoria Navarrette
Teyah Denetclaw	Tara Rodarte #
Nevaeh Lucero +	Derrick Yazzie

Master of Arts

William Asby	Michelle Morrison
Christopher Brooks	Breanna Schnedar
Natalie Burke	Kylee Shipp
Regis Lacher	Jennifer Snyder
Phyllis Lopez	Jonella Vasquez

Doctor of Philosophy

Dayra Fallad-Mendoza
Dissertation Title: “Artificial Intelligence and Content Analysis of Online Knowledge Construction”

Matthew Gallegos
Dissertation Title: “Interorganizational Citizenship Behaviors as Indicators of Creativity in Collaborative Innovation Spaces”

Lisa Kittinger
Dissertation Title: “Exploring Technology Adoption and the Role of Care in K-12 Education: Insights from Utaut Frameworks and Teacher-Student Dynamics”

- summa cum laude | + cum laude | # magna cum laude | *with distinction

STUDENT SPEAKERS

Maria Blair, B.S.



I was born in Manila, Philippines, and raised by my grandmother in humble circumstances. I was the eldest of three children. Poverty shaped much of my early life, but I was determined to build a better future for my family. Seeking greater opportunities, I took a leap of faith and left the Philippines shortly after turning twenty-one, venturing to the Middle East with hopes of saving enough money to start my own business. While this journey meant putting my Bachelor of Education on hold—having already completed 117 credits—it was a sacrifice I was willing to make.

While working in Kuwait, fate led me to my husband, a man whose unwavering support has been a cornerstone in my life. After we married, I immigrated to the United States, marking the beginning of a new chapter filled with profound milestones. Within our first year of marriage, we built a home, welcomed our first child, and laid the foundation for a life rooted in love and faith.

For nineteen years, we thrived in Virginia, raising our three children and embracing the blessings God placed before us. Then, during the pandemic, we felt called to make a change, moving to New Mexico in pursuit of a new path. Through every challenge and triumph, our faith remains central to our lives, guiding us as we continue to grow, learn, and cherish the family we have built together. Our three children—now 22, 19, and 11—are our greatest joy, and through it all, we remain steadfast in our Christ-centered journey.

Jennifer Snyder, M.A.



Jennifer Snyder is graduating with a Master of Arts in Organization, Information, and Learning Sciences. Her coursework has focused on ethics, instructional design, and training and development, all of which have affected her desire to be a positive impact in the adult learning space. After graduation, she is excited to create exciting organization development programs and pursue roles where she can focus on the betterment of not just companies, but the people who work in them. She is grateful for the support of the faculty and staff of the OILS program during her time in the program.

Lisa Kittinger, Ph.D.



Lisa Kittinger is a researcher at Sandia National Laboratories specializing in human factors, usability research, and organizational development. She has her master's degree in industrial-Organizational Psychology from the University of West Florida, and a bachelor's degree in psychology from Augusta State University. She enjoys applying quantitative and qualitative research methods to improve training, organizational development, and human systems integration. For her dissertation in OILS, she conducted a literature review, survey study, and interviews to gain insights into technology adoption and teaching approaches that prioritize personal connection and support (i.e., care).