



ORGANIZATION,
INFORMATION &
LEARNING SCIENCES



OILS
CONVOCATION
SPRING 2026



May 16, 2026 • 3:00 pm • Zimmerman Library

THANK YOU

Organization, Information & Learning Sciences Faculty

Dr. Mark Emmons, Dean and Professor
Dr. Sung Pil Kang, Program Director and Associate Professor
Dr. Vanessa Svihla, Associate Program Director and Professor
Dr. Amir Hedayati-Mehdiabadi, Associate Professor
David Hurley, Interim Associate Dean and Associate Professor
Amy Jackson, Associate Dean and Professor
Dr. Victor Law, Associate Professor
Dr. Stephanie Moore, Associate Professor
Dr. Adam Papendieck, Assistant Professor
Dr. Oleksandr Tkachenko, Associate Professor

Program Staff

Christopher Larrañaga, OILS Program Manager
Benjamin Henrique, Peer Advisor

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

Carlotta Abeyta

Carlotta would like to acknowledge all the OILS professors for whom she had the privilege of learning from and whose passion for their area of expertise is inspiring. She would also like to express her love and gratitude to Dave, who stayed up many late nights to show solidarity and to keep her focused and moving forward.

Jasmie Desiderio

I want to express my sincere gratitude to the OILS program and faculty for their guidance and support throughout my journey. I am especially thankful to my dissertation committee for their unwavering encouragement and for never giving up on motivating me to reach the finish line. Your continued support meant more than I can fully express. Also, I want to extend my deepest thanks to my family—especially my husband, my high school sweetheart, and our two boys. The long days, high stress, and moments of exhaustion were not easy, but your love, patience, and constant support carried me through. Thank you for never giving up on me and for being the foundation I needed to keep going.

To my boys, I hope this moment serves as a reminder to always persevere and never give up.

Fennel Doney

- Ashley Davis (Mother) for giving me advice and support throughout my academic career
- Christopher Larrañaga (Academic advisor) for consistent communication, support, and encouragement
- Director Kang (Professor) for consistent & helpful communication, feedback, and encouragement, as well as being a great professor

Kristen Ferris

I am deeply grateful to Dr. Vanessa Svihla for taking me on as an additional advise and welcoming me into the GATHER community, your mentorship has been transformative. To Dr. Pil Kang, thank you for hanging in with me through this long journey and never giving up on me.

I owe everything to my family. I am proud to come from a long line of strong, educated, and independent women, and I thank my parents for instilling a deep value for education while allowing me the freedom to find my own path. To Torran, thank you for stepping up with parenting duties whenever I needed to write or attend class, I couldn't have done this without you. Finally, to Lyra and Callan - I love you, you are the reason for everything I do.

Aura Gonzalez-Aller

I thank God for the gift of life and for His many blessings, including my family and the exceptional professors in the OILS program, whose dedication, support, and guidance I sincerely appreciate.

Wyatt Slauson

Wyatt would like to thank his family, friends and OILS faculty for their guidance and support on this academic journey.

Sarah Volden

- My wife, Nicole, and my baby, Annika: Thank you for holding everything together while I was in class and supporting me through it all—I couldn't have done this without you. Annika, I do all this for you. Never give up!
- My Bestie, Tabatha Oliver: Thank you for always being there, no matter what. Your support means everything to me.
- Christopher Larrañaga & Adam Papendieck (my advisors): Thank you for going above and beyond to help me get here—forever grateful, my dudes.
- My friend and classmate, Abi: Thank you for encouraging me, laughing, crying, and pushing through to the end with me. We freaking did it!

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 16, 2026

PROGRAM

Welcome

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

Introduction of OILS Faculty

Dr. Pil Kang, Associate Professor
and Program Director of OILS

Introduction of Student Speakers

Dr. Pil Kang, Associate Professor
and Program Director of OILS

Student Speakers

Fennel Doney, B.S.
The Road We've Traveled So Far

Carlotta Abeyta, M.A.
Onward

Jasmin Desiderio, Ph.D.
Lead with Purpose

Kristen Ferris, Ph.D.
It Takes a Village

Recognition of Graduates

Dr. Mark Emmons, Dean

• • • Reception • • •

GRADUATES

Bachelor of Science

Fennel Doney +
Aaron Jurado
Justin Lee
Eric Ramirez #

Master of Arts

Carlotta Abeyta	William Kramer
Ricardo Carreon-Santiesteban	LaShawn McCoy
Sarah Caswell	Claudia Pavel
Clarissa Craig	Mackenzie Rowe
Barbara Dawson	Wyatt Slauson
Devin Enslin	Stephen Sutherlin
Abigail Fisher	Olivia Torres-Jojola
Aura Gonzalez-Aller	Sarah Volden
Nia Harrington	Elias Witz
Marjorie Holmes	

Doctor of Philosophy

Jasmine Desiderio

Dissertation Title: *Keeping Communities Safe through an Alternative First Response Model: Predictors of Civilian First Responders' Self-Efficacy in Handling Crisis Situations*

Kristen Ferris

Dissertation Title: *Transforming Faculty Development: Organizational Citizenship Behavior, Arts-Based Design, and Communities of Transformation in STEM Education*

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

STUDENT SPEAKERS



Fennel Doney is graduating with a Bachelor's of Science in Informational Training and Technology. During his time with the University of New Mexico, he has worked at Zimmerman Library as a Student Team Lead. With Zimmerman, he worked on many projects, including major reorganization and restructuring, the review and updating of various internal documents, and the development and documentation of training processes. From here, he plans to take a gap year before attending grad school to pursue a Master's in Library and Information Sciences with a focus on archival librarianship. During his gap year, he plans to continue his work with the library and build experience.



Carlotta Abeyta is a non-traditional student who is graduating with an MA in Organization, Information & Learning Sciences. She is a Staff Operations Manager at Los Alamos National Laboratory, where she leads a diverse team of 11 staff and is a key member of the Division's management team. Carlotta is motivated and strengthened by her partner and her family. She is a devoted dog mom to Callie, and loves to be in nature.



Jasmine Desiderio is a public health and safety leader with over 13 years of experience designing and implementing injury prevention, crisis intervention, and postvention programs across New Mexico. Her work focuses on systems change, cross-sector collaboration, and building coordinated responses to complex community challenges. She previously served as Project Director for a Native American Youth Suicide Prevention program, leading strategic planning, policy development, program evaluation, and community engagement efforts. In 2021, she was appointed Deputy Director of the Albuquerque Community Safety (ACS), where she helped develop and implement the nation's first civilian-led first responder department to address 911 calls related to mental health crises. She now oversees key violence intervention initiatives, including hospital- and school-based programs, opioid education and prevention, community-oriented response efforts, and the implementation of New Mexico's first Trauma Recovery Center. She holds a Ph.D. in Organization, Information and Learning Sciences from the University of New Mexico, a Master of Arts in Professional Counseling and Guidance from New Mexico Highlands University, and dual Bachelor's degrees in Psychology and Criminology from the University of New Mexico. She brings both professional expertise and personal passion to her work, drawing daily inspiration from her family. She and her husband are raising two sons whose passions and pursuits fuel her ongoing commitment to strengthening communities and building a safer, healthier future for the next generation.



Kristen Ferris is a native New Mexican. Kristen is an incoming Associate Dean for the School of Health, Wellness, and Public Safety at Central New Mexico Community College. Her work centers on the intersection of reflection, creativity, and data to drive equity-centered institutional change. As a researcher, Kristen explores how administrators can provide faculty with the essential time and support to lead Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice initiatives. She is motivated by those willing to challenge assumptions and use speculative, arts-based practices to imagine better futures for students. Kristen remains dedicated to aligning program quality with workforce needs to foster a more equitable and effective educational landscape in New Mexico.