

From the President's Office

Dear Campus Community,

Welcome back to NMSU-A. I love this time of year when continuing students arrive and we also meet our new students. I am reminded on a daily basis of the outstanding faculty and staff on our campus as I see them interact with our student body. Keep up the good work, and let's continue to make this a place where students feel welcome.

We have a number of projects to tackle this academic year that includes putting the final touches on the academic reorganization, the revision and implementation of our committees to align with A&S and C&T, attracting new students, implementing a meaningful retention plan, hosting a site visit for the Higher Learning Commission, the launching of a new website, and last but not least, a remodel of our Deli (just to mention a few). We are headed into exciting times, indeed.

Low enrollment is still a primary concern. By the way, it is a concern for many colleges across the country. I suggest that our strategy to improve enrollment be based upon creating a climate by which students are attracted to our campus because of its quality. We produce a high quality education for an affordable price. "Quality" is the operative word and in turn, will begin to define our reputation. Then we need to celebrate and promote successes that reflect that quality. I am convinced that we can do this and that the word will get out that an education from NMSU-A is of the highest quality, thus leading to more students being attracted to our campus.

Thanks for all you do to improve the lives of students. Have a great semester.

Dr. Ken Van Winkle
 President
 New Mexico State University Alamosordo

Food Truck Services Coming to NMSU-A

NMSU-A will have food trucks available on campus on a trial basis. The more we support them, the more they will come, so come on out and get your grub on! Chaos Bistro will be the first to kick things off. They will be in the Science Center parking lot TOMORROW August 24th from 11am until 2:30pm selling delicious food to our hungry students, faculty, staff, and anyone else who wants to stop by our campus! Chef Vince will be making his famous sliders, cheesesteaks, soups, and amazing fries. He can even make some vegetarian options upon request! So come on over to the NMSU-A campus and "Order Some Disorder!"



The 2016 Otero County Fair will be held at the Otero County Fairgrounds August 24-27. NMSU-A will have a booth in the exhibit building on Wednesday from 5-9pm, and Thursday-Saturday from 11am-10pm. At our booth, you can get information about NMSU-A, our programs and our classes. Please stop by! For more information about the fair, visit <http://www.oterofair.com/>.



A representative from the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission will be on Campus Tuesday Sept. 20th to talk about potential job opportunities with the SEC and other federal government agencies to any interested students or alumni.

This will be a broad overview of government service. They will be here at 3:30 pm in CB 201.



U.S. Securities and
Exchange Commission



You may now apply for degrees and certificates for fall 2016. The application is free. To start the process, see your academic advisor to verify all requirements have been met. Then login to MyNMSU, select Banner Self Service, select Student, then select Student Records and Degree Application. If you need assistance, contact your academic advisor.

An online Certificate application is now available at <http://nmsua.edu/certificate-application/>.

Take Your Chance

To See the World
NMSU-A Study
Abroad Fair

When: Tuesday
August 30, 2016
12:00 pm - 1:00 pm
Where: Patio

A Limited Number of
Lunches Will Be Provided

stop by to see
how you can go
abroad with
NMSU-A!

NM STATE Office of
Education Abroad
All About Discovery!

Please Contact Dr. Juan Garcia with
any questions at 575-439-3626 or
jbgarcia@nmsu.edu

Greetings, NMSU-A Pokémon Trainers! Welcome to the fall 2016 semester here at NMSU-A. It's great to see so many new faces and returning students on campus this week. I've noticed quite a few of you partaking in the spoils of Pokéstops and the gym near Student Services. At last check, it was Team Instinct that comprises our campus' gym leaders. I don't know about you, but my latest catch was a CP 108 Ghastly by the Faculty Office. Watch for increased opportunities, as numerous lures have been placed in the Science Center recently. Have a great semester, and enjoy your time here at NMSU-A. Go Aggies!

- Miguel Viscarra, M.A.



The Townsend Library Student assistants have been busy! With the helpful hands of Billy and Ramón, they have put together a wall clock for the library! As you can see, it's not just any old clock. It is a five foot diameter clock made of books! You never need to ask "What time is it?" in the library – It is time to read! It is a permanent installation on the south wall and we would love for you to stop by and admire it. So, a big pat on the back to Becca, Shantel, Orlando, Ryan and Lyka. They all helped put it together and, not so coincidentally, they are here at the library, waiting to help you.



**BARNES
& NOBLE**

A representative from Barnes and Noble will be on our campus, at the bookstore location (on the first floor of the Student Services Building) from 1:30-6:30pm Wednesday August 24th, and Thursday August 25th to help answer questions about book orders and free shipping. It is important that we all communicate what is and is not going well, so we can help our students.

GOOD NEWS

NMSU-A Adult Education had 25 graduates and 14 college enrollees for the 2015-2016 fiscal year. Way to go students! The Adult Education staff congratulates you for all your hard work!

We are pleased to announce the first STEM club meeting of fall 2016!

Please join us Tuesday, August 30 at 12:30 pm in the Glass House.

All NMSU-A students interested in science, technology, engineering or math are invited! This is an organizational meeting. Bring your experience and ideas.

- Build community with your peers
- Get involved in the community
- Help promote STEM

Contacts:

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NMSU-A Theatre Guild Proudly Presents a Fundraiser for Scholarships & Theatre Projects

FUNNY ZONE

FUNNY ZONE

FUNNY ZONE

A diverse program of 6 short plays written by Alamogordo playwrights
Carla C. Crittenden, Carolyn Dittmer, Andrea Garcia,
Julia Newton, Roque Rosales, and Bob Trowbridge.

ONE WEEKEND ONLY:
FRIDAY, Sept. 9—7:30 PM
SATURDAY, Sept. 10—7:30 PM
SUNDAY, Sept. 11—2:00 PM

Rohovec Theatre on the NMSU-A Campus
2400 North Scenic Drive, Alamogordo

SILENT AUCTION items on display during pre-show and at intermission. We accept cash, checks, and credit/debit cards!

ADMISSION: \$10

Advance Tickets at The Blue Stone (1117 S. White Sands Blvd.)
and Books Revisited (in the White Sands Mall)

Call 439-3670 for more information

Academic Support Center

FALL 2016 HOURS

ascnmsua@nmsu.edu

testingnmsua@nmsu.edu

ASC:

(575) 439 – 3853

Testing Center:

(575) 439 – 3852

Mon: 9AM – 8PM

Mon: 9AM – 7PM

Tues: 9AM – 8PM

Tues: 9AM – 7PM

Wed: 9AM – 8PM

Wed: 9AM – 7PM

Thurs: 9AM – 8PM

Thurs: 9AM – 7PM

Fri: 9AM – 4PM

Fri: 9AM – 3PM

Sat: 9AM – 4PM

Sat: 9AM – 3PM

Sun: CLOSED

Sun: CLOSED

New Mexico State University - Alamogordo



NMSU-A Spotlight: Biology Lab Coordinator, Sarah Cerra

Sarah Cerra is affectionately known as "Sarah Squared" because her name is super cool- say it out loud. She came to NMSU-A in the spring of 2013 as the Hispanic Serving Institute (HSI) Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) Biology Laboratory Instructional Specialist. Prior to her work at our campus, Ms. Cerra studied botany and zoology at Western New Mexico University and received her Master's in Science in Plant Pathology, from Iowa State University.

If you have the opportunity to talk to Sarah Cerra, you'll quickly note that she LOVES Biology! You'll also note that she is involved in almost everything related to STEM activities in the NMSU-A service area. Aside from teaching biology classes, she is a passionate participant and organizer of student poster sessions, science fairs, robotics events, and educational activities at the local schools. She shows up at everything STEM, where her energy seems to defy universal laws of thermodynamics.

This semester, look for Sarah in the Science Building classrooms and laboratories, where she will be teaching Human Biology (Biology 101) and Cellular and Organismal Biology (Biology 211). Most of NMSU-A's students know her as a biology instructor, but she has also been a key player in the success of a number of other initiatives, including Service Learning at NMSU-A. Most of the Service Learning experiences during the first two pilot periods on our campus came through her students.

In addition, she's been a devoted participant in the annual Association of Biology Laboratory Educators (ABLE), which promotes information exchange among university and college educators actively concerned with teaching biology in a laboratory setting. She has brought information and ideas back from annual meetings which have been critical in improving the undergraduate biology laboratory experience by promoting the development and dissemination of interesting, innovative, and reliable laboratory exercises.

In addition, together with NMSU-A's former STEM Outreach Transfer Coordinator, Ester Gonzalez, Sarah participated in many of the campus' STEM outreach activities, including robotics competitions. Last year she coordinated with Ms. Gonzalez and OteroSTEM, which, through the Holloman AIAA chapter and the Alamogordo community, provides creative ways for kids in Otero County to get excited about math and science. OteroSTEM.org and NMSU-A collaborate to assure the success of the Alamogordo FIRST™ LEGO League, which not only reaches out to youngsters in the community, but gets them onto the NMSU-A campus, where they become exposed at an early age to our college campus. She also coaches the Buena Vista Elementary School FIRST LEGO League Superheros and FIRST LEGO League Jr. Sidekicks teams.

When she is not working, you may find her at various community and church outings with her family, or participating in service projects. She is also working on her Ph.D. in Water Science and Management and is doing her research on desalination concentrate management at the Brackish Groundwater National Desalination Research Facility on Lavelle Road.

You can find Sarah Cerra bustling about the biology laboratories, the classrooms, and the Science Building. Her office is in SC 123, which sits just in front of the biology labs. If you would like to reach her, you can email her at scerra@nmsu.edu or call her at (575) 439-3763.



The Flu shot clinic is open to students, faculty, staff and the public...Walgreens will also process any insurance you have.

It's time to complete Charter Renewals for Student Organizations

- Current Guidelines and Appendices can be found at <http://nmsua.edu/student-government/student-organizations/>.
- Students willing to take leadership roles on campus are needed: 10 At-Large Senator positions are available.
- Contact the Office of the Vice President for Student Success at (575) 439-3716 by September 9th for more information.



NMSU-A Allied Health Invites YOU to :

get your **Flu shot** here!

FREE!!!

September 7, 2016

09:00 am—13:00

NMSU-A Glass House
Free Giveaways!!!

Sponsored by the Walgreens Pharmacy

NM STATE UNIVERSITY

The poster is for a free flu shot clinic. It features a graphic of a syringe and the text "get your Flu shot here!". The event is on September 7, 2016, from 09:00 am to 13:00. It is held at the NMSU-A Glass House and includes free giveaways. The event is sponsored by Walgreens Pharmacy. The NMSU logo is in the top right corner.

ALTRUSA



The Altrusa Institute was founded in Nashville in 1917 by Dr. Alfred Durham, a member of Kiwanis. During World War I, Dr. Durham saw the need for women's civic organizations. While he would organize the clubs and collect a portion of the dues, Dr. Durham envisioned the Altrusa Institute as a chain of national clubs where business and professional women could meet and exchange ideas. When he moved on to Indianapolis he met Mamie L. Bass. While she admired Dr. Durham's Institute, Bass felt that Altrusa could serve a higher purpose. Altrusa will be 100 years old in 2017.

In June 1918, when Altrusa held its first convention in Indianapolis, Mamie L. Bass's vision became reality. The Altrusa Institute became a classified service organization for women. Altrusa became international in 1935 when it organized its first club in Mexico. Altrusa moved into Puerto Rico, Chile, Ecuador, Mexico, India, Korea, Russia, Ukraine, Ireland, Great Britain, Bermuda, Canada, and New Zealand. In 1946, Altrusa sent its first representative to the United Nations. Despite issues of international concern, Altrusa is first and foremost a community-based grassroots organization that seeks to solve the problems in our back yards. Busy Altrusans raise money for local charities, volunteer at battered women's shelters, help runaway teens, build houses for Habitat for Humanity, and so much more. Inspired by Thoreau, Mamie L. Bass put it best, "it is not enough to be good; Altrusans must be good for something."

Altrusa International of Alamogordo, NM, Inc.

Altrusa International of Alamogordo, NM, Inc. club was established in 1960 and became chartered on 17 Sept 1962. Over the last almost 55 years we have accomplished and have physically and/or financially supported the following; St John's Soup Kitchen, Toys for Joy, "Ditty bags" for COPE, Special Olympics, Adult Basic Education/Literacy, ID Finger Printing with DPS, Donated to Girl Scouts Zia Council, and Monetary support for Emergency Pendant Monitors. Our biggest project was the Traveling Literacy Bear Program where we encouraged all of the children in Alamogordo, Tularosa, La Luz, High Rolls and Cloudcroft to read and rewarded them at the end of each school year. We also proudly offered Scholarships to students attending NMSU-A. Since 2010 our membership has declined and we almost disbanded this year, but after considering our rich history in Alamogordo and the almost 55 years we have had this chartered club, we were not willing to give it up. ALTRUSA means Altruism. We are united by one theme internationally. "Leaders in Service" Altrusans are Leaders in service. We are looking for new members who care about our community by helping promote Literacy and Community Service Projects. Altrusa provides community service, develops leadership, and fosters an international network of members in diversified career classifications.

ALTRUSA meetings are held on the 1st Thursday of each month at 5:30 PM at the 19th Hole Restaurant at the Golf Course on Hamilton Road in Alamogordo. You can reach us by e-mail at AltrusaAlamogordo@gmail.com. You can also find us on Facebook, at Altrusa International of Alamogordo, NM, Inc. Join ALTRUSA International of Alamogordo and help better our community.

Check out the new addition to "Campus Connection" that we are calling "NMSU-A Alumni Success Stories." We want the public to hear some of the wonderful stories our alumni are telling about their experiences at NMSU-A. So, you will see and hear success stories on a regular basis. If you have one, or know someone who is willing to share their success as it relates to NMSU-A, please ask them to contact Katie at (575) 439-3729 or kpacelli@nmsu.edu.

My journey truly begins at the age of 17. I had it all planned out – I was going to get good grades and graduate high school with a good GPA; I was going to go to college and make a lot of money. I was going to do something with my life...then it all fell apart. My friend, who I knew since Kindergarten, passed away and my world turned upside down. All of a sudden I found myself unmotivated and uncaring. I decided I was not going to go to college. I was probably going to work in fast food until I died. It was a close call, but I ended up graduating high school. After I graduated, I moved to Las Cruces and planned to work at Sonic. No job was available and I was jobless for many months. Since my dad was also very sick, I moved back to Alamogordo to be closer to him. My dad passed away a month later.

I used this as a motivational tool and told myself that I can do better than what I was telling and allowing myself to do. I decided to dedicate myself to creating a better future, so I enrolled at NMSU-A. With my very low overall GPA, I had a lot of work ahead of me. I was not in "Good Academic Standing" and was on Academic Probation.

I started off slow, going back initially for only a few credit hours, and advanced to a full time schedule. I was confused and changed my major so many times that when I finally decided on my major, many classes did not count toward it. This may have been a problem for me, if I did not have the professors I had or the wonderful experience I obtained at NMSU-A.

I graduated from NMSU-A with an Associate Degree in Science, as a member of Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society, a Crimson Scholar, and made it on the Dean's List in 2014. I am now a year and a half away from graduating with my Bachelor's Degree in Horticulture, and I have a 3.498 GPA. I am working hard to provide for myself and my son. If it wasn't for the incredible staff at NMSU-A, I probably would have been discouraged about school and would not be where I am today. This is my thank you letter to everyone there who has helped me in my academic success and achievements.

Sincerely,
Jason Fechner



Jason with former NMSU-A president Dr. Cheri Jimeno at his graduation ceremony in 2014.



Jason with a NASA engineer at the NASA Community College Aerospace Scholars Program in Houston in 2014.



Jason really getting into his work in Las Cruces this summer.