



Department News
May 6, 2015

Graduating Seniors:

Mr. Arthur Armijo Jr. and Mr. William Crawley, biology majors, were among nine others who received the Clauve Outstanding Seniors Award which is presented by the Dean of Students Office each Spring. This award is named after the late Lena C. Clauve, a UNM music education teacher as well as the first Dean of Women. Presented annually to graduating seniors, this recognition award is based on leadership, involvement, and academics. The recipients must have a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or better and have made significant contributions to UNM and the surrounding community.



(l. to r.): Dean of Students Tomás Aguirre with Clauve recipients Lyndsay Stapleton, Isaac Romero, Rachel Williams, Earl Shank, Krista Marrs, William Crawley, Arthur Armijo, Sophie Salcedo and Divana Olivas.

Graduate Students:

Mr. Jason Kimble, a graduate student in the IMSD Program working with Drs. Robert Sinsabaugh and Diana Northup received first place for his graduate student oral presentation entitled “Nitrogen Cycling in Subsurface: Microbial roles” at the Tri-Branch Meeting of the American Society for Microbiology that was held the weekend of April 25, 2015, at Fort Lewis College in Durango, Co.



Ms. Virginia Thompson and Mr. Daniel Warnock are this year’s recipients of the A & S Summer Dissertation/Thesis Completion Award. They will each receive a \$2500 stipend to assist them with the completion of their degrees. This award is meant to help them focus on their work during the upcoming summer months.



Publication Award:

Dr. Evan Carson: *The 2014 George Miksch Sutton Award in Conservation Research was awarded to **Evan W. Carson**, Ashley H. Hanna, Gary P. Garrett, Robert J. Edwards, and John R. Gold for their paper “Conservation Genetics of Cyprinid Fishes in the Upper Nueces River Basin in Central Texas.”*

*This award, which is sponsored by the Southwestern Association of Naturalists, recognizes an outstanding paper related to conservation published in the 2014 volume of *The Southwestern Naturalist*. Included is the link to the paper.*

Carson, E. W., A. H. Hanna, G. P. Garrett, and J. R. Gold. 2014. [Conservation genetics of cyprinid fishes in the upper Nueces River basin in central Texas](#). *Southwestern Naturalist* 59:1-8.

Teaching Award:

Dr. Satya Witt, Lecturer III, in the Department of Biology, is this year’s recipient of the 2015 Arts & Sciences Weber Teaching Award. This award honors Lecturers or Part Time Instructors who exemplify excellence in teaching of any science/math discipline within the College at the undergraduate level. Each year, one or two faculty members are awarded stipends of up to \$2,000.

Nominees are evaluated on the basis of the breadth, as well as the quality, of their instructional contributions. Preference is given to those who have demonstrated instructional excellence both inside and outside of the classroom by making significant contributions to undergraduate science/math instruction through undergraduate teaching, undergraduate student mentorship and training, and departmental or interdisciplinary curricular developments.

Research Grant:

Dr. Irene Salinas (sole P.I.) Assistant Professor of Biology, received a total award of \$530,817 for three years from the National Science Foundation for her project entitled “Getting Organized: Lungfish Reveal the Evolutionary Origins of Organized Mucosal Lymphoid Tissue.”

