Commencement
May 2020
Recognition &
Congratulations
Greetings to Economics Graduates:

Congratulations to all the graduating UNM Economics students for Fall 2019, Spring 2020 and Summer 2020! The coronavirus global pandemic has changed all our lives in unexpected ways, and is likely to continue to do so for some time. Our graduates have completed their degrees under difficult circumstances, and thus we are especially proud of all of them. They move on to new challenges in a time of heightened uncertainty, and we wish them the best in all their future endeavors. For public health reasons, we have cancelled our traditional department graduation ceremony and reception. But a list of all our graduates (BA, MA and PhD) is provided herein. We extend an invitation to all our graduates of Spring 2020 to also join us next year in the Spring 2021 ceremony. We look forward to when we will all be able to gather together again and celebrate.

Sincerely,
Robert Berrens
Professor and Chair
Department of Economics
University of New Mexico
Doctor of Philosophy in Economics

Mohammad Ali

Dissertation: Essays on Nutrition and Cognitive Production in Developing Countries: Evidence from Ethiopia & Nepal
Committee: Kira Villa, Chair
Robert Berrens, Melissa Binder, Catalina Herrera

Jake Organ

Dissertation: Chad: Changing weather, crop yield and demographic trajectory
Committee: Kira Villa, Chair
Alok Bohara, Janie M. Chermak, Kathy Powers

Disha Shende

Dissertation: Essays on the Emotional Well-being, Health Insurance Disparities and Health Insurance Markets
Committee: A. Bohara, Chair
Richard Santos, Sarah Stith, Smita Pakhale

Siobhan Yilmaz

Dissertation: Adolescent Mental Health in the Developing World: Three Economic Analyses of Stressors, Support, and Coping Strategies
Committee: A. Bohara, Chair
Brady Horn, Richard Santos, Andrew Rowland
Department of Economics
Scholarship & Award Recipients

Gerald and Vivian Boyle Memorial Prize in Economics
This award is given to deserving graduate students who are successfully pursuing a course of study in Economics that includes a field in Public Finance. It is intended to provide financial support for graduate students in Economics to support research activity or other scholarly activities related to their educational experience at the University of New Mexico.

Recipient: Soumyajit Chakraborty

Julian S. Duncan Scholarship in Latin American Economic Studies
Named in memory of Julian S. Duncan, a former faculty member and chair of the Department of Economics at UNM, known for his dedication to students. This scholarship supports students of economics who are focusing on the study of economics in Latin America.

Recipient: Avinandan Chakraborty

Alfred L. Parker, PhD Economics Scholarship Fund
This award is given to deserving graduate students who are successfully pursuing a course of study in Economics to provide them with general scholarship support.

Recipient: Kritika Sen

J. Raymond Stuart Award in Economics
This award is made possible by an endowment by J. Raymond Stuart, UNM class of 1932. The award is designed to provide deserving undergraduate or graduate students with financial assistance for specific expenses related to their professional development such as the purchase of otherwise unavailable data sets, subject fees for experiments, travel to professional meetings or other purposes necessary for professional development.

Recipient: Rex Sitti
Masters of Arts in Economics

Nikhil Ganvir
Suraj Ghimire
Jesse Kaczmarski
Abhradeep Karmakar
Samsun Naher
Bamadou Ouattara
Kritika Sen
Rex Sitti
Colin Sleeper

Bibek Acharya
Thesis: Impact of Citizens United on Government Contracts
Committee: Alok Bohara, Chair
Matias Fontenla, Wendy Hansen

Bishal Raj Khanal
Thesis: Assessing the Environmental Impacts of Urbanization in Siddharthanagar, Nepal
Committee: Alok Bohara, Chair
Andrew Goodkind, Sarah Stith
Bachelor of Arts in Economics

**Fall 2019**
- Geoffrey Baker
- John Gabaldon
- Thomas Henderson
- Jeffrey Herrera
- William Judd
- Calvin McKinley
- Reva Morris
- Julio Rivera
- Mikal Rojas
- Sophie Wayne

**Spring 2020**
- Jonathon Hood
- Alanis Jackson
- Jackson Kniebuehler
- Serafina Lawles
- Eric Leung
- Samuel Lewis
- Benjamin Lopez*
- Stephen Martinick
- Thomas Miller
- Megan Mullican
- Tharani Murali
- Triton Nelson
- Brian Olivas
- Kyle O’Neil
- Hugo Patino-Cano
- Simon Reeser
- Isaiah Romo
- Thomas Silva*
- Bradley Smith
- Bugra Sukas
- Carlos Talamante Romo
- Thaddeus Torrez
- Maximillian Whittaker
- Katherine Ygbuhay

**Spring 2020**
- Niraj Adhikari
- Jarrett Attel
- Miles Brooks
- Eduardo Calderon
- Roberto Carlos
- Mitchell Carson
- Matthieu Cartron
- Jordan Chavez
- Krystofer Cox
- Kyle Craft
- Sydney Dickens
- Hannah Fritsch*
- Taylor Gallegos
- Zhanna Garfield
- Zachary Gibson
- David Goodman
- Kaitlyn Granger
- Brendon Gray
- Desmond Harmon
- Gene Alyza Hilario

*Students graduating with Departmental Honors*
Professors
Robert P. Berrens, PhD, Oregon State University, Department Chair
Alok Bohara, PhD, University of Colorado
Janie M. Chermak, PhD, Colorado School of Mines
Philip Ganderton, PhD, UC Santa Barbara
Richard Santos, PhD, Michigan State University
Robert O. Valdez, Phd, Pardee RAND Graduate School

Associate Professors
Melissa Binder, PhD, Columbia University
Matias Fontenla, PhD, University of Texas
Brady Horn, PhD, Washington State University
David van der Goes, PhD, Lehigh University

Assistant Professors
Andrew Goodkind, PhD, University of Minnesota
Benjamin Jones, PhD, University of New Mexico
Xiaoxue Li, PhD, Syracuse University
Sarah Stith, PhD, University of Michigan
Kira Villa, PhD, Cornell University
Jingjing Wang, PhD, University of California at Riverside
Xiaoyang Wang, PhD, University of Illinois at Urbana

Senior Lecturers
Claudia Diaz Fuentes, PhD, Pardee RAND Graduate School
David Dixon, PhD, University of New Mexico
Cristina Reiser, PhD, University of Tennessee

Research Professors
Richard Bernknopf, PhD, George Washington University
Lee Reynis, PhD, University of Michigan

Professor of Practice in Water Policy and Governance
John Fleck, Whitman College
The Department of Economics, established in 1917, has a long and proud history. Initially, the department focused solely on undergraduate education. The Master of Arts in Economics was added in 1947 and the Doctor of Philosophy in Economics was added in 1966. In the decades since, our graduates have distinguished themselves in public service, research, teaching, and private enterprise. We are proud of each and every one of them.

Today the Department continues its long tradition of applied economics research in environmental and resource economics, public economics, and international development and sustainability. Our goal is to provide our students an educational opportunity that prepares them for the 21st century and the challenges and opportunities that face them.

As faculty, we work to improve the well-being of communities.

Staff
Leah Hardesty, Department Administrator
Benedict Talley, Coordinator, Graduate Programs
Nathanael-Faust Shucker, Sr. Academic Advisor