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## Greetings from the Government Department



Department Head, Dr. Neil Harvey

Welcome to the Department of Government Newsletter! We are delighted to share with you some of the many achievements of our faculty and students. You will find here a sample of the outstanding research being done by faculty, as well as the successes of our

students in national conferences. We are also proud of how our department's engagement with the university and broader community advance our goal to use knowledge and skills to make a positive difference in the world. Happy reading, friends!

## Government Graduate Newest NMSU Regent

The NMSU Board of Regents swore in new member Garrett Moseley on March 10, 2023. Moseley was appointed by New Mexico Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham and confirmed, March 8th, by the New Mexico Senate. Moseley, a graduate of Valley High School in Albuquerque,

succeeds Neal Bitsie as student regent. Moseley graduated in May 2023 with a B.A. in government and criminal justice. He served as the president of the university's student government organization (ASNMSU) since fall 2022, having previously served as an ASNMSU senator from

the College of Arts and Sciences. His term runs through December 31, 2024.



## Dr. Ani Ter-Mkrtchyan was awarded \$249,000 Research Grant from DOE

Dr. Ani Ter-Mkrtchyan, assistant professor of Government was awarded \$249,000 research grant as part of the research team led by the Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis at the University of Oklahoma to develop community-led framework to assist the U.S. Department of Energy to design important energy facilities in line with host community needs and aspirations. The research team led by the University

of Oklahoma includes collaborators from the University of Michigan, the University of Wisconsin-Madison and Pacific Northwest National Laboratory. Dr. Ter-Mkrtchyan is delighted to work with leading experts in this team that bridges engineering with social science and provides research exposure and mentorship opportunity for three undergraduate and one graduate student at New Mexico State University.

## Model UN Team takes top honors in New York & Japan

The NMSU Model United Nation Team took top honors at two Competitions this Academic Year. In April 2023 the team traveled to New York City to compete and were named Outstanding Delegation, the highest recognition awarded.

In November 2022 the team traveled to Kobe, Japan, for an International Model UN Conference, and also won the Outstanding Delegation Award.

Less than 5% of teams participating achieve this

designation. Thirty-four groups from universities in 13 countries competed in the event in Japan.



## Government Department Star Dr. Tad Conner



Dr. Tad Conner (Associate Professor) was unanimously chosen the Department Star by the faculty of the Department of Government. He was honored with this recognition at the College's Starry Night event, held at the ASNMSU Center for the Arts on March 23, 2023.



## Faculty Spotlight: Meet Dr. Cheon Lee

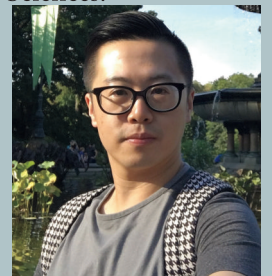
Dr. Cheon Lee joined the Government Department in August 2022 as an Assistant Professor. In 2022 he received his Ph.D. in Public Administration from the School of Public Affairs and Admin. at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey - Newark.

His research interests cover public and nonprofit management with a focus on nonprofit financial management and nonprofits' role in fostering political participation of citizens. He is currently interested in nonprofit financial structure such as restricted funding and commercial revenue and how nonprofits facilitate online political actions. He is also interested in education policy and published several reports on racial and economic segregation in New Jersey high schools.

Since he has been at NMSU, Dr. Lee received the

Emerging Scholars Award from the Association for Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Action (ARNOVA) in November. ARNOVA's Emerging Scholars Award is given to 10 applicants annually to recognize the potentials for the next generation of nonprofit scholars and practitioners. This award is designed to support the efforts of emerging scholars and practitioners to foster dissemination of research into practice and enhance the creation of usable knowledge.

He also received 2023 Summer Research Salary Support from the College of Arts & Sciences.



## Pi Sigma Alpha goes to Washington D.C.

In February NMSU's Pi Sigma Alpha (PSA) Eta Eta Chapter attended the 2023 National Student Research Conference in Washington, DC.

They presented their paper: **"The campus as a battleground: What the Dobbs decision means for student "pro-life" and "pro-choice" activism."**

Their research focused on the increased participation of student organizations on campus from the Students for Life Club at NMSU as well as Students for Reproductive Rights. They researched

how each organization presents and advertises their causes on campus as well as what organizations or programs support these clubs nationally.

Pi Sigma Alpha, the National Political

Science Honor Society, is the only honor society for college and university students of political and social sciences in the United States. Its purpose is to recognize and promote high academic achievement in the field of political science.



The campus as a battleground: what the Dobbs decision means for student "pro-life" and "pro-choice" activism

CO-AUTHORS: CELESTE ROMERO, JULIAN MCBETH, CAREN DAVILA, ROSE ENJADY, AND THEORA LAWSON.

PSA Members: Caren Davila Varela, Celeste Romero, Jillian McBeth, Rose Enjady, and Theora Lawson



## 2023 Social Justice Award Recipients

The Department of Government presented its annual Social Justice Award at the J. Paul Taylor Social Justice Symposium on April 13, 2023. This year's recipients included a faculty member, Dr. Bertha Bermúdez Tapia (Sociology) and a Graduate Student, Haleigh Haven (Masters of Public Administration, MPA). The award has been offered each year since 2002 in recognition of important contributions to social justice by faculty, students, and staff of NMSU.

Dr. Bertha Bermúdez Tapia received her Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of Colorado-Boulder in 2022 and is an assistant professor in the Department of Sociology at NMSU. She has conducted research at migrant camps and shelters in the Mexican border cities of Reynosa and Matamoros. This work led her to from scholarly analysis to action for social

justice, including advocacy for the rights of asylum seekers and the procurement and distribution of donations such as mattresses for pregnant women, food, clothing, blankets and tents. Dr. Bermúdez Tapia has also volunteered to cook and distribute food, create safe spaces and practices for migrant women, organize informational workshops, and translate materials regarding the asylum process.

Haleigh Haven is enrolled in the Masters of Public Administration (MPA) program at NMSU. She was nominated by fellow graduate student Tobias Murphy who praised Haleigh's commitment to social justice, stating "Haleigh is one of the first students to be trained as a Peer Mental Health Ambassador in a program started with the goal to advocate for mental health awareness for students on campus at NMSU. She has helped numerous students



Dr. Bertha Bermúdez Tapia



Haleigh Haven

struggling with their mental health and acted as a guide and compassionate listener in order to ensure that these students did not feel neglected, alone, disparaged, or marginalized in any way." In addition, Haleigh serves as an executive officer in the Save the Children Action Network in which she has lobbied for higher quality in early learning and education, as well as organizing food drives and fundraising to address the needs of underprivileged children.

## New Ph.D Program in Transborder and Global Human Dynamics

Three NMSU department heads - Dr. Neil Harvey, Government; Dr. Glenn Fetzer, Languages & Linguistics; and, Dr. Rani Alexander, Anthropology -presented a proposal to create an inter-disciplinary Ph.D. program in Transborder and Global Human Dynamics to the Board of Finance of the State of New Mexico on April 18. The Board unanimously and enthusiastically approved the program, which will be the first of its kind in the

country. The program is scheduled to start in Fall 2024 and is designed to train doctoral students in the Humanities and Social Sciences with interests in migration, cultural & linguistic diversity, and social & environmental justice in transborder regions. Collaboration with colleagues from several departments will allow for new, graduate-level interdisciplinary research that will build on our existing work on migration and other global issues.

## Meet Dr. Cory Sukala

Dr. Sukala joined the Government Department in August 2022. He received his Ph.D. in Political Science from Louisiana State University with a primary concentration in Political Theory, a secondary concentration in American Politics, and a minor in Religion and Politics. He is interested in the questions of how distinct political traditions are able to coexist and how competing social forces, such as political and religious authority, dictate our behavior.

His current research focuses on Buddhist political thought and the consequences of the conflict caused as the Buddhist political world comes together with the liberal West in the age of globalization. Prior to coming to NMSU, Dr. Sukala worked in public policy research and served as the Director of Elections for Beaver County, Pennsylvania.



## Government Department Promotions - Congratulations!

Congratulations to Dr. Christina Medina, recently promoted to Full Professor. Dr. Medina joined NMSU in 2007 and has been Director of the Master of Public Administration (MPA) program since 2011, during which time she has led the program through national re-accreditation on two occasions.

Congratulations to Dr. Seong Kang who was recently promoted to Associate Professor with Tenure. Dr. Kang joined NMSU in 2018 and serves as Faculty Adviser tot the Pi Sigma Alpha National Honors Society for Political Science at NMSU.

