

CELEBRATING 60 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

2019

HOMECOMING RECEPTION

DEPARTMENT OF GOVERNMENT



OCTOBER 3, 2019

3:00-5:30 PM

BRELAND HALL, ROOM 179

NICK FRANKLIN SEMINAR ROOM

1780 E UNIVERSITY AVE, LAS CRUCES, NM 88003

VISIT US AT: www.deptofgov.nmsu.edu

Welcome! Bienvenidas y Bienvenidos!

Homecoming is always a special time of the year. We come together to remember great times in our beloved Department of Government as a family of staff, students and faculty dedicated to academic excellence and civic engagement. We thank you for taking time to come today and share in this celebration.

We certainly have a lot to celebrate. We are proud of the many achievements of our alumni in public service, education and community leadership. Today, we are marking six decades of excellence and are pleased to welcome some of our distinguished alumni, former faculty and students to share with us their own reflections of what the Department of Government means to them. They will each tell stories of their times as students and professors at NMSU and recall the issues that made them passionate about politics and political science.

We also thank Mr. Jose Uranga (Government NMSU 1969), who will also present a donation to our department of his unique collection of political campaign buttons from the times of George Washington to the present. This collection will be displayed in the Nick Franklin Seminar Room as a means to encourage faculty and student interest and research in the political history of the United States. We invite you all to make donations of political memorabilia to our department's collections.

Finally, we hope that you will consider donating to any of our department's scholarship funds. Our students are very deserving of support and strive to maintain our tradition of excellence. Our family is a student-centered one, helping each cohort and each generation succeed in their chosen fields and careers. Information about our scholarships and how to donate is available at the website:

<https://deptofgov.nmsu.edu/giving-2/>

Thank you and enjoy our Homecoming Reception. Here's to another 60 years of excellence!

Dr. Neil Harvey

Professor and Academic Department Head

Homecoming Reception 2019

Program Speakers:

Introduction	Neil Harvey
1961-65	Nick Franklin
1969	Jose Uranga
1979	Nancy Baker
1989	Yosef Lapid
1999	T. Mark Montoya and Charli Carpenter
2009	Johana Bencomo
2019	Mariana Marañón-Laguna



A warm welcome from Patricia Vargas, Administrative Assistant, and Neil Harvey, Professor and Academic Department Head.



Nick Franklin 1961-1965

Nick Franklin grew up and attended high school in Las Cruces, after which he enrolled in NMSU. After graduating from the Department of Government in 1965 he earned his J.D. at the George Washington University Law School, even as he worked full-time on Capitol Hill. Nick subsequently returned to New Mexico and enjoyed a career in both state and federal government, and he eventually became a major figure in the US health insurance industry. Throughout his career, Nick had the privilege of working alongside members of Congress, governors, cabinet secretaries, and even presidents.

Nick was always drawn to politics and naturally majored in Government at NMSU. His course of study was embedded within a multi-discipline Department of History and Social Science, which at the time had just one political science professor: Dr. Donald Kreitzer. Professor Kreitzer would become Nick's mentor, intellectual inspiration, and friend as he taught courses on such subjects as the American government system and political parties and pressure groups. With gratitude and affection, Nick has established several Government Department scholarships in Donald Kreitzer's name.

In his remarks, Nick will talk about the Department of History and Social Sciences (HSS) for the period 1961-65, including the disciplines that were part of it. In 1964, the department was officially named the Department of Government in the College of Arts and Sciences regarding the faculty and its interactions in the HSS. He will briefly mention the historical events of the time that impacted student life such as the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, the Cuban Missile Crisis and the involvement of the war in Vietnam.



Jose Uranga - 1969

Jose Uranga grew up and graduated from Carlsbad, New Mexico, High School. After four years at NMSU, Jose graduated with Honors in 1969 with a BA (Arts & Sciences, Government and Pre-Law). College highlights included being elected Vice President of ASNMSU and enacting ASNMSU's first Student Bill of Rights. Jose then attended Georgetown University Law School, graduating with a Juris Doctorate in 1972. Law School highlights include clerking for a US Senator Joseph Montoya and several executive branch agencies. In 1975, Jose earned a MA (Environmental Science) with Honors from the University of Texas, San Antonio.

Jose retired in 2002 after 30 years as an Environmental attorney, first as a government (state and federal) enforcement litigator and then as a corporate in-house counsel for five Fortune 200 corporations. Two career highlights: receiving a presidential appointment in the Carter administration to serve as Special Assistant to the U. S. Attorney General Benjamin Civiletti; and serving as the lead Justice Department attorney in the Three Mile Island nuclear case.

In 2018-19, Jose and his wife Joan established the Jose N. and Joan T. Uranga Law Endowed Scholarship to support government students interested in pursuing law-related studies and careers. Jose will compare and contrast national issues with issues at NMSU in the middle to late sixties.



Nancy Baker - 1979

Nancy Baker was inspired to study Political Science in part by a year-long journey around the world in the late 70s. She completed a Ph.D. at Tulane University and joined the Government Department at NMSU in 1989, where she taught the Presidency and a wide array of public law classes until her retirement in 2013.

Her talk will look at Afghanistan & Iran in 1978-79 (from the perspective of a young American traveler), U.S. public misperceptions then, and how those continue to echo today.



Yosef Lapid - 1989

Yosef Lapid holds a Ph.D. from Columbia University. He joined the NMSU faculty in 1990. Following 25 years of memorable service in the Department of Government, he retired in 2015 as a Regents Professor. In retirement, he returned to his lifelong passion for children's literature and published an award-winning picture book series titled Snowman Paul,

1989 was an *Annus Mirabilis* for international relations and Yosef Lapid. Yosef will quickly tie in the historical events of 1989 (the end of the Soviet Empire in Central and East-Central Europe, the end of the Cold War, the reunification of Germany and so on) with the academic road that took me to 25 years of wonderful service at NMSU.



T. Mark Montoya - 1999

T. Mark Montoya, PhD is an Associate Professor of Ethnic Studies at Northern Arizona University. Montoya's scholarship centers broadly on the US-Mexico borderlands, citizenship, hip-hop, and first-generation college student experiences. Montoya attended New Mexico State University from 1993-2000, where he received a BA in History (1997) and a MA in Government (2000; Thesis: *The Cultural Politics of Santeria in Revolutionary Cuba*). While with the Government Department, Montoya served as a Teaching Assistant (1998-1999) and a Graduate Instructor (2000). He was also a member of the Government Alliance of Graduate Students (GAGS), serving as Vice-President in 1999 and President in 2000.

Mark will talk about some of the key issues of the 1990s, including the drug cartel wars in Ciudad Juárez, social movements in Latin America, immigration/migration issues and the militarization of the border. He will also refer to the influence of critical "post" scholars, feminists, activist-scholars and people of color who served as teachers and mentors.



Charli Carpenter - 1999

Robyn "Charli" Carpenter attended NMSU as an undergraduate from 1994-1996 and did an MA in Government from 1996-1998. She was inspired to study international relations during the war in Bosnia, studying the Dayton Accords under Yosef Lapid and becoming fascinated by paradoxes of international and human security in his course "Dilemmas of War and Peace." Professors Lapid, Harvey, Butler and Baker also taught her to think about bordering, silencing and what gets missed in politics - themes that infused her later work and which she will refer to in her comments. She went on to earn a PhD in Political Science from University of Oregon in 2004 and is now a full Professor of Political Science at University of Massachusetts-Amherst, specializing in human rights and the laws of war. She has written three books, numerous journal articles, has consulted for the United Nations, and writes often for *Foreign Policy*, *Foreign Affairs* and *The American Prospect*. Follow her on Twitter @charlicarpenter.



Johana Bencomo 2009

Johana is a first-generation college graduate. She earned her BA in Government in 2009 and her MSW in 2015, both from NMSU. Today she is the Director of Organizing for NM CAFE; a power-building, community-organizing non-profit working to improve the lives of every day New Mexicans. She will be talking about the Inauguration of President Obama and the US economy.



Mariana Marañón- Laguna 2019

Mariana was born and raised in Mexico City. In 2017, she moved to Las Cruces and began her education at NMSU. In fall of the same year, she joined the university's Model United Nations team, which helped her discover her passion for political science and international affairs. Mariana then declared Government as her second major in Spring 2018 and months later she conducted in-depth research about the challenges faced by border communities in the Paso del Norte region. Mariana will be graduating in 2020 and she hopes to attend graduate school in the East Coast. She will be talking about the 2019 Amazon rainforest fires.