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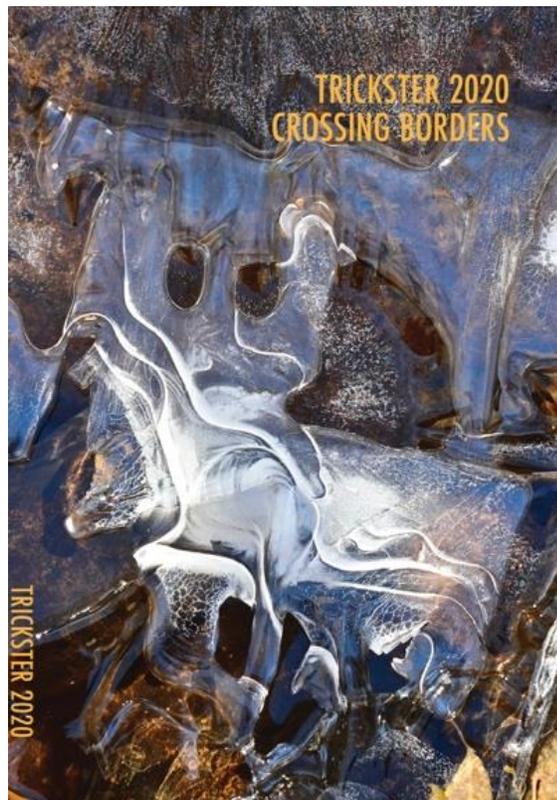
Liberal Arts: A Path to the Future

"I think having an AA in Liberal Arts is a great idea, especially if you are not sure what to go into. In my opinion, I feel that having a liberal education is important in real world issues and conversations."

*David Lucero, current
AA Liberal Arts Student*

Mission Statement

Northern New Mexico College Language & Letters Department provides an in-depth examination of the relationship between power and language in developing critical and creative thinking skills for thoughtful communication dedicated to engaged citizenship and social change.



Check out the cover of the New *Trickster*! See the editors and article below for more about Northern's literary journal.

Trickster 2020

ABOUT THE EDITORS

As natives of Northern New Mexico, our editors celebrate the values and traditions of the multicultural worlds they inhabit.

NATALYA BACKHAUS has been a life-long resident of the Española Valley for the entire 18-years of her life. Music and writing are incredibly important to her, and if she could, they would absolutely be the focus of her life.



JORDAN EGAN HARRIS comes from Atlanta, Georgia, and has moved around a lot until settling down currently in New Mexico. She plans to major in Nursing and help give back to her community, but in her spare time she loves reading, singing, and finding adventures anywhere she can.

GABRIELLA GALLEGOS is from New Mexico and grew up in Española. She graduated from Victory Christian Academy and is currently enrolled in her third year at Northern New Mexico College. She is majoring in Substance Abuse Counseling.



Tim Martinez grew up beside the Rio Grande, in the beautiful village of Alcalde known for its fruit orchards and the largest acequia in the state. He comes from a family of three generations of farmers who sold apples for over 30 years. He is an artist and musician and plays at many venues in Northern New Mexico.

CYNTHIA MONTOYA graduated from Peñasco High School and is pursuing a career in the military.



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THIS YEAR WE, THE EDITORS, have decided to focus on work about borders. From the time we are born to the time we draw our last breath, we spend our life crossing borders or being limited or blocked by them. The issue explores the theme of borders, whether physical, emotional or spiritual, and we think you will enjoy the amazing variety of work we have chosen.



Trickster 2020

The Department of Language and Letters has been very proud to host Northern New Mexico College's Literary Journal, *Trickster*, from its first issue in 2014 to the 2020 issue which should be available by the end of December. Our first issue was edited by faculty and staff but our goal was to quickly turn the leadership over to student editors and we have been successful in doing so.

In order to train students about literary editing and publishing we have offered several upper level courses which have allowed them to become familiar with the genre and to engage in the process of producing the journal from beginning to end. This not only requires creativity in terms of making decisions about submissions, but also calls on project management skills to ensure that each phase of the journal happens when it should. Thus work on the journal combines creative and practical skills which transfer well into any field and career.

Our first student editors were Twila Cassias and Tim Martinez. Twila graduated with a degree in early childhood education and is now working as a teacher in our community and Tim graduated with a degree in Business and in addition to working as a guitar teacher is still a co-editor for *Trickster*. Natalia Bachaus and Tim are the editors for our 2020 issue and Natalia became editor while still a high school student. The editors for our 2021 issue are Connie Martinez who is a business major and Tamara Romero who will graduate with a B.A. in Integrated Studies this semester.

Trickster publishes the work of New Mexico writers and artists and we have often celebrated our publications with public readings, bringing together contributors from many local communities and drawing attention to our College and our students. In recent years we have chosen to create a theme for the journal. Due to ongoing negative press about Espanola, we decided to devote our 2019 issue to work celebrating the beauty and diversity of Espanola and the surrounding Northern communities. For 2020, we chose the theme of borders, and for 2021 we will explore the theme of life in the "new normal"—stories, poems, essays and artwork that expresses the New Mexico experience of this historical moment.

We are incredibly proud of what our students have done to make *Trickster* a quality undergraduate publication—competitive with reputable undergraduate journals nationwide, and of how they have grown as a result of their involvement. According to Lori Franklin, the Chair of the Department of Language and Letters: "*Trickster* enriches our community by celebrating creative expression and bringing us together in our mutual love of literature and art."

[Thanks to Trickster for supplying this article and editor information](#)

“NNMC’S Liberal Arts Program helped me become who I am today and helped me rekindle my love for literature, discussion, critical thinking, for it inspired me to want to learn more about the things I loved.”

Sierra Cook, AA Liberal Arts Graduate, Current student in BAIS Humanities

Degree Works – Let’s Discover It!

Degree Works is a great tool that can help you along your educational path. It enables you to explore your current curriculum status in relation to all of your major’s core classes and primary classes and shows completed, in progress or still needed classes.

A plethora of insightful functions are available to investigate changing your major and the requirements for that type of change. Or it will show your necessary grade average to obtain the degree you’re seeking along with other variations. I have found it to be a great resource and am happy to connect with you on how to utilize it.



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HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO EVERYONE LANGUAGE AND LETTERS DEPARTMENT

Get in Touch! Get interested! Get in School!

Please contact us for more information or to register for Spring 2021 classes.

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