THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING

FALL CONVOCATION

CLASS OF 2023

4 p.m.
Wednesday, December 13, 2023
University Arena
Message from the Dean

To the Fall 2023 University of New Mexico School of Engineering Graduates

Welcome to the fall 2023 School of Engineering Convocation ceremony. I am honored and excited to be part of this important milestone in your lives.

Since becoming dean this spring, I have been impressed and greatly moved by the accomplishments and hard work of our students, as well as the various support they have in their lives, including family, friends and the School of Engineering staff and faculty. Earning a degree in engineering requires a lot of dedication — both personal and in your community — and everyone attending here today had a role to play in the success of each student graduating. Thank you for your hard work and tireless dedication. You truly make the School of Engineering a great place to be.

Congratulations, graduates! I look forward to hearing about the transformation you will make in the world in the years to come.

Donna Riley
Jim and Ellen King Dean of Engineering and Computing
BOARD OF REGENTS

The laws of New Mexico provide for a Board of Regents which is responsible for the governance of The University of New Mexico. The Board’s power to govern the University includes fiduciary responsibility for the assets and programs of the University, establishment of goals and policies to guide the University, and oversight of the functioning of the University.

The Board is comprised of seven members who are appointed by the governor of New Mexico, with the consent of the Senate, for staggered terms of six years except for the student regent, who is appointed for a two-year term. The governor and the secretary of education are designated as ex-officio, non-voting members.

The Regents
Kim Sanchez Rael, Chair
Jack L. Fortner, Vice Chair
Robert L. Schwartz, Secretary-Treasurer
William H. Payne
Paul Blanchard
Paula Tackett
Randy Ko, Student Regent

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Convocation Program

Processional

FACULTY MARSHAL
Andrew Shreve, professor emeritus.
Department of Chemical and Biological Engineering

BANNER CARRIER
Yvoné Nelson, Biomedical Engineering Program
and Nanoscience and Microsystems Engineering

PROCESSIONAL MUSIC
“Pomp and Circumstance March Number 1,”
Composed by Sir Edward Elgar
“Procession of the Nobles,” Composed by Nicolai Rimsky-Korsakov
Performed by The New Mexico Brass Quintet

MASTER OF CEREMONIES
Charles B. Fleddermann, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs
and Community Engagement

KEYNOTE SPEAKER
Casey DeRaad, B.S., M.S., Electrical and Computer Engineering

STUDENT SPEAKERS
Sarah Maurice, B.S., Electrical and Computer Engineering
Odey Yousef, M.S., Civil, Construction and Environmental Engineering

PRESENTATION OF BREECE AWARD
Presenter: Steven Graves, Associate Dean for Research and Innovation
Kristina Ji, B.S., Computer Engineering

PRESENTATION OF DEGREE CANDIDATES
Charles B. Fleddermann, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs
and Community Engagement

RECESSIONAL
Platform Party

SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING ADMINISTRATION

Donna Riley, Dean, School of Engineering
Charles B. Fleddermann, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Community Engagement
Eva Chi, Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs
Steven Graves, Associate Dean for Research and Innovation
Sang M. Han, Chair, Department of Chemical and Biological Engineering
Susan Bogus Halter, Interim Chair, Department of Civil, Construction and Environmental Engineering
Lydia Tapia, Chair, Department of Computer Science
Mark Gilmore, Interim Chair, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering
Yu-Lin Shen, Chair, Department of Mechanical Engineering
Hyoung K. (Hank) Lee, Chair, Department of Nuclear Engineering
Matthias Pleil, Director, Manufacturing Engineering Program
Christina Salas, Director, Biomedical Engineering Program
Nathan Jackson, Director, Nanoscience and Microsystems Engineering Program
Daniel Feezell, Director, Optical Science and Engineering Program
Convocation Traditions

Throughout their long and proud history, universities have retained and cherished strong ties to their ceremonial roots. When English universities were taking form in the 12th and 13th centuries, scholars were also clerics. They adopted robes similar to those of their monastic orders. Caps were a necessity in the drafty buildings, and copes, or capes with hoods attached, were needed for warmth.

School of Engineering Convocation

The School of Engineering Convocation pays tribute to the history and traditions of graduations throughout the ages. The bachelor’s gown is red, has long sleeves, and is worn closed. The master’s and doctor’s gowns are black. The cap, originally round, is now a square mortarboard and is the same for all degrees. Caps are traditionally black with a long tassel fastened to the mid-point. The tassel is worn on the right side until the degree has been conferred; it is then worn on the left. The hood indicates the type of degree and the official color or colors of the university conferring the degree. For example, the color orange represents engineering, and that color is used on the velvet binding or edging of the hood. The official University of New Mexico colors are cherry and silver, so the hood is lined with silver gray with a chevron of cherry red.

The Convocation begins and ends with a colorful academic procession, led by a staff member carrying a banner in front of the School of Engineering degree candidates. The faculty marshal is usually selected from School of Engineering emeritus faculty, an honorary title for retired full-time faculty. The faculty marshal carries a mace or ceremonial staff and leads the platform party, composed of School of Engineering academic leadership, UNM regents and dignitaries, and convocation speakers.

The mace traces its origins to a medieval weapon and was later carried before kings and high church officials as a ceremonial emblem of authority. The current mace was created by Peter Vorobieff, a professor of mechanical engineering, staff member Jason Church, and student Daniel Freelong. It is made of steel and leather, similar to the maces used during the siege of Valetta (1565) by combat engineers.
Casey DeRaad, who grew up in Taos, N.M., has a dream for what her beloved state could one day became. That passion to make New Mexico the hub for space research fuels her motivation for creating NewSpace Nexus.

DeRaad didn’t always dream of being an engineer, but remembered loving math in school. Since she was good at it, a teacher encouraged her to pursue engineering. She first chose chemical engineering, but decided it wasn’t for her and switched into UNM’s Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering.

She earned a bachelor’s degree from UNM in 1985, then a master’s in 1992, both in electrical engineering. As a grad student, she worked at the Air Force Space Technology Center (the precursor to the AFRL), which started her on a career trajectory with the Air Force.

In 1994-95, she was the Air Force liaison to NASA’s chief technology advisor in Washington, D.C., then was the Air Force National Polar-Orbiting Environmental Satellite System Integrated Program Office in Maryland. From 1997-2008, she was the assistant to the AFRL associate director for space in the Space Vehicles Directorate, and from 2008-16, started and led the AFRL Tech Engagement Office.

Although her years of service in the Air Force would have allowed her to retire, she soon found that lifestyle was not for her — at least not now.

“I retired for six months and wasn’t going to do anything. Then I told my husband, ‘There’s not enough closets to clean. I need to go back to work!’ ”

So instead of an ordinary job, DeRaad chose an extraordinary job, one that she said is “fun, flexible and helps the New Mexico workforce.” That job was creating NewSpace Nexus, which incorporates efforts she thought about but wasn’t able to do when she was a part of the government.

“I’m hoping that New Mexico can be great if we get out of our own way and help each other,” she said.

The organization, which helps space-related companies get started and established, went through a name change (formerly NewSpace New Mexico) because “our reach is national, and we wanted to reflect that,” DeRaad said.

She and her husband William have three grown sons and two grandsons. When she has time, she enjoys camping and spending time at their second home in Durango, Colo.
Undergraduate speaker

Sarah Maurice
B.S., Electrical and Computer Engineering
Graduate speaker

Odey Yousef
M.S., Civil, Construction and Environmental Engineering
j;kjhsdfkjhdslf
George E. Breece Award

The George E. Breece Award was established in 1921 to honor the UNM School of Engineering senior with the highest grade-point average from each graduating class. The recipients of this award consistently have grade-point averages higher than 4.0, reflecting a majority of A+ grades throughout their undergraduate courses.

Kristina Ji
B.S., Computer Engineering
Degrees Awarded

Order of Presentation
Department of Civil, Construction and Environmental Engineering
Department of Computer Science
Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering
Department of Mechanical Engineering
Department of Nuclear Engineering
Department of Chemical and Biological Engineering
Biomedical Engineering
Nanoscience and Microsystems Engineering
Optical Science and Engineering

STUDENT HONORS RECOGNITION

"Graduating with Distinction" (symbolized by a † by the student’s name) recognizes the exceptional performance of students who graduate with a master’s or doctor of philosophy degree. The status is determined at the time of the final examination through agreement of the examining committee members, with final approval given by the department chair.
Civil, Construction and Environmental Engineering

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN CIVIL ENGINEERING

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT

MASTER OF ENGINEERING

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN CIVIL ENGINEERING

MASTER OF CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN ENGINEERING

*Summer 2023 Graduate

†Graduating with Distinction
Computer Science

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN COMPUTER SCIENCE

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN COMPUTER SCIENCE

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN COMPUTER SCIENCE

Electrical and Computer Engineering

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN COMPUTER ENGINEERING

*Summer 2023 Graduate  †Graduating with Distinction
Electrical and Computer Engineering

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN COMPUTER ENGINEERING

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN ENGINEERING

*Summer 2023 Graduate  †Graduating with Distinction
Mechanical Engineering

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

MASTER OF ENGINEERING IN MANUFACTURING ENGINEERING

*Summer 2023 Graduate  †Graduating with Distinction
Nuclear Engineering

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NUCLEAR ENGINEERING

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NUCLEAR ENGINEERING

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN ENGINEERING

*Summer 2023 Graduate  †Graduating with Distinction
INTERDISCIPLINARY PROGRAMS

Biomedical Engineering
MASTER OF SCIENCE IN BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING

Nanoscience and Microsystems Engineering
MASTER OF SCIENCE

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

Optical Science and Engineering
MASTER OF SCIENCE

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

*Summer 2023 Graduate  †Graduating with Distinction
Congratulations and Welcome!

Congratulations, graduates! Now that you have graduated, you are automatically a member of the UNM Alumni Association. There are no dues. Visit the UNM Alumni Association website for information and a complete listing of benefits at http://www.unmalumni.com.

We also welcome you to the School of Engineering alumni family. The UNM School of Engineering strives to keep you connected to the School in the most convenient way possible. As you move forward, please keep us informed regarding address changes, career moves, and significant events in your life. If you are interested in collaborating on an activity to engage fellow alums, let us know. Please contact us at engineeringalumni@unm.edu.