


Form D Attachment:

Internal letters of support and endorsement.

*Office of the Dean*

To: Faculty Senate Curriculum Committee

From: Mark Ondrias, Chair of the College of Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee



Re: Museum Studies Degree Program Approval

Date: September 3, 2010

The College of Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee met late this summer to review the proposed Graduate Program in Museum Studies and the various forms (A-D) that accompanied the proposal. The Committee was quite impressed with the substance of the proposed program and the diligence of its originators in procuring all of the required pre-approvals at the UNM and HED levels. We unanimously voted approval of the program curriculum. It is well conceived and we made only a few suggestions for minor modifications of the proposed curriculum.

The purpose of this memo is to express our concern about the funding of the proposed program. It is not at all clear how and if the Museum Studies Program will be created and maintained in the current era of fiscal constraints. These funding issues are not within the mandate of our committee deliberations, but we strongly urge that they be resolved before the proposed Program is fully approved.



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College of Fine Arts  
MSC04 2570  
University of New Mexico  
Albuquerque, NM 87131-0001

Phone: 505-277-2111  
Fax: 505-277-0708

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E. James Dixon  
Professor of Anthropology  
Director, Maxwell Museum of Anthropology

Dear Professor Dixon,

I am writing in support of the proposed Master of Arts, Master of Science, and undergraduate certificate program in Museum Studies. The College of Fine Arts Curriculum committee has approved the proposal. I have also shared this proposal with leaders in the field such as James Enyeart, former director of the George Eastman House in Rochester and the Center for Creative Photography at the University of Arizona and Stuart Ashman, Secretary of Cultural Affairs for the state of New Mexico. In both cases they were very supportive. Stuart Ashman opened the door to involvement in the curriculum by professionals in the state museums. Given the concentration of museums on this campus and in the cultural corridor between Albuquerque and Taos, education in Museum Studies will provide opportunity to New Mexican students and working professionals to find or enhance careers in these institutions in the state.

Sincerely,

Jim Linnell, Interim Dean



The University of New Mexico

Department of Anthropology  
MSC01 1040, 1 University of New Mexico  
Albuquerque, NM 87131-1086  
Telephone (505) 277-4524  
FAX (505) 277-0874

September 21, 2009

To: Dr. Suzanne Ortega  
Provost and Vice-President for Academic Affairs

From: Michael W. Graves *Michael W Graves*  
Chair and Professor

The new interdisciplinary proposal for a Master's degree and undergraduate certificate program in Museum Studies has the full support of the Department of Anthropology. This new program will enable UNM to realize the potential of its exceptional Museum collections and the considerable human resources of its Museums. Furthermore, it will strengthen the existing synergy between the Department of Anthropology and the Maxwell Museum of Anthropology by more fully linking the teaching mission of the Department with the Maxwell and the other participating UNM Museums.

By increasing the educational opportunities in Anthropology, we anticipate that the Museum Studies Program will have a positive impact on both undergraduate and graduate education in Anthropology at UNM. The new certificate program will enrich undergraduate education and increase the number of undergraduate majors. Many of the graduate students enrolling in the Museum Studies Program will select Anthropology as their cognate discipline and this will positively impact enrollment in our graduate classes. Furthermore, it will likely motivate some students to apply to our Ph.D. program should they decide to pursue careers in Museum anthropology such as advanced curatorial, research, or administrative positions.

The proposed Museum Studies Program will have the support, endorsement, and cooperation of the Anthropology Department and faculty.



Department of Art & Art History

May 1, 2009

To: Charles Fledderman  
Acting Dean  
Office of Graduate Studies

From: Joyce M. Szabo, Chair *JMS*  
Department of Art and Art History

Re: Proposed Graduate Degree Programs in Museum Studies

Dear Dean Fledderman:

With this memo, I offer my support of the initiative to develop graduate degree programs in Museum Studies. The detailed proposal indicates that we seek both a Master of Arts and a Master of Science to allow a greater diversity of students with differing specialties to engage in these programs of studies.

A group of faculty and staff from various departments and museums across campus have been working on this proposal under the leadership of James Dixon, Director of the Maxwell Museum of Anthropology. The proposal carries with it clear arguments for the benefits of such a program, but I will reinforce a few of those here.

New Mexico has a great many museums that are used by the state's population and visitors to New Mexico alike. In addition, new cultural centers are continuing to develop at various Pueblos and on various reservations. All of these cultural centers and museums need staff who understand the issues surrounding collections and their care as well as exhibition techniques and pedagogy. The graduate program we have outlined will be of great assistance to these museums and centers, and to their current staff. In addition, such a graduate program offers strong possibilities for jobs for our students upon graduation, jobs both within and outside the state.

I am completing my nineteenth year here at UNM and have been involved in teaching museum studies courses for most of my tenure here. A few years ago we developed a graduate minor in museum studies, which I feel is still a necessary part of the curriculum. However, the new graduate degrees expand the range of possibilities in many ways. Therefore, I strongly endorse the proposal as submitted.



*UNM Art Museum  
Office of the Director*

27 April 2009

Charles F. Fledderman  
Acting Dean  
Office of Graduate Studies  
University of New Mexico  
Humanities Bldg. Suite 107  
Albuquerque, NM 87131

Dear Dr. Fledderman,

I am writing in support of the initiatives to put into practice a roster of interdisciplinary courses leading to the Master of Arts and Master of Science in Museum Studies, and to expand and strengthen the already existing graduate minor in the discipline. My colleague James Dixon, Director of the Maxwell Museum of Anthropology, has spear-headed this important study, and, with the assistance of an able committee, including my colleague Dr. Sara Otto-Diniz, an innovative proposal has been created which I concur in all ways. By formalizing interdepartmental collaborations, and focusing the resources of the University's Museums to a common goal, these graduate degrees will invigorate academic purpose, position UNM as a leader in professional educational initiatives, and significantly contribute to the University's mission that advances an "understanding of the world, its peoples, and cultures." The existing, rich heritage and physical holdings of the Museums of the University of New Mexico—as viewed within the broader scope of the Arts and Sciences—are basis enough that graduate degrees in Museum Studies should be a professional component of the already excellent schedule of advanced studies.

As Director of the University of New Mexico Art Museum, I am especially mindful of the role our institution will play in this program. Chief among the many collections within the University Art Museum, the art of photography is truly at the core of the permanent collection. With over 10,000 photographs representing the veritable history of the medium, the Art Museum, in

collaboration with the Department of Art and Art History, provides students with resources that are ranked 5<sup>th</sup> in the country (*U.S. News & World Report*, 2008). What a Master of Arts in Museum Studies at UNM could mean for those students wishing to enter the profession of fine arts museum administration, gallery management, auction house employment, and/or private collections work, would be a hands-on experience that is close to unparalleled and is singular in excellence west of the Mississippi. To that end, I am committed to provide education and curatorial staff, as is feasible, for Museum Studies course work at the UNM Art Museum in an on-going basis. With the art museum's newly created position of "Curator 3, Academic Initiatives," [April 2009] the focus upon inter-disciplinary learning, led by that curator, would be in step with many of the goals outlined in the current proposal, such as pedagogical practices pertinent to visual/cultural literacy, collections management principles and standards, problems of connoisseurship, and issues of education and hermeneutics, apropos of degree course requirements and thesis plans. Let me take this opportunity to emphasize that first and foremost, the mission of the University Art Museum is to serve as a teaching museum and to that end we welcome this opportunity.

And so, please accept this letter of endorsement of the overall effort to strategize and then succeed at the creation of a Masters level degree in Museum Studies. The University Art Museum is very proud to play a part in this important advance.

Sincerely yours,



E. Luanne McKinnon  
Director

cc:

James Linnell, Acting Dean, College of Fine Arts

James Dixon, Director, Maxwell Museum of Anthropology

Joyce Szabo, Chair, Department of Art and Art History

David Craven, in-coming Chair, Department of Art and Art History





of the University of New Mexico

27 April 2009

Office of Graduate Studies  
Humanities Building  
Suite 107  
University of New Mexico  
Albuquerque, N.M

To: Graduate Program Review Committee

The Harwood Museum of Art fully endorses the *Proposal for a Master of Arts or Master of Science program in Museum Studies*. This program is critical to New Mexico's growing need for trained museum professionals to facilitate cutting edge research in the museum field, and to provide the opportunity for training and development towards creative and quality museum based public education programs. New Mexico ranks tenth in the United States in the number of museums per capita, thus it is apropos that the University of New Mexico provide the educational leadership in this field. The expertise and experience of the University's faculty and staff through its museums, galleries and Tamarind Institute is well positioned to become the nation's premier educational program for Museum Studies.

The Harwood Museum of Art looks forward to an active involvement with students by providing internship opportunities in museum practices, museum interpretation, and collections management. Students will be given the opportunity to participate in hands-on museum activity under the guidance and supervision of the Harwood's professional staff and UNM faculty. Students will be given the opportunity to develop and implement strategies that are complimentary to the museum's best practices. The Harwood has a small apartment on site used for guest lecturers and artists. This space can be made available to interns on a preplanned basis to assist in defraying the financial burden of a student's field study away from the University's main campus in Albuquerque.

Sincerely,

Deborah McLean  
Interim Director, Harwood Museum of Art



THE MUSEUM OF  
**SOUTHWESTERN BIOLOGY**

Thomas F. Turner  
Director  
505-277-7541  
turnert@unm.edu



April 28, 2009

The Graduate School  
Office of Graduate Studies  
Humanities Building, Suite 107  
University of New Mexico  
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87131-0001

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to offer my strong support for the proposal for a Master of Arts and Master of Science program in Museum Studies at the University of New Mexico. Historically, the Museum of Southwestern Biology (MSB) has been a vigorous participant in a concentration area in Museum Studies along with other UNM museum and we believe it is time to develop a formal curriculum in this area. For too long the state of New Mexico has lacked a training and education program in Museum Studies, despite the fact that New Mexico has more museums per capita than any other state and a rich cultural and natural heritage that is of international significance. A Museum Studies program is a natural fit at UNM given our history of supporting internationally-recognized museums of art, archaeology, natural history, meteoritics, etc.

The MSB stands ready to be a full partner in providing infrastructure, human resources, and expertise in preparation, curation, and use of natural history collections of all kinds to enhance both the breadth and depth of the Museum Studies curriculum. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions you may have regarding the proposal and the MSB's role in bringing the Museum Studies Program to fruition.

Sincerely,

Thomas F. Turner, Ph.D.  
Director, Museum of Southwestern Biology  
Associate Professor, Department of Biology



Bachelor and Graduate Programs  
Extended University  
MSC03 2190  
1 University of New Mexico  
Albuquerque, NM 87131-001  
Phone: 505-277-8585  
Fax: 505-277-6908

29 May 2009

Dr. James Dixon  
Director, Maxwell Museum of Anthropology  
MSC01 1050  
Hibben Building, Room 111  
1 University of New Mexico  
Albuquerque, NM 87131

Dear Dr. Dixon:

Thank you for meeting with me on May 22, 2009 in order to discuss the proposed Masters in Museum Studies program and the undergraduate certificate program.

Extended University in 2005 had discussions with Martin Facey, then chair of the Department of Art and Art History, regarding the possibility of delivering the graduate minor in museum studies to Santa Fe, Taos, and Gallup based on requests from those communities. We also encouraged the development of upper division versions of the graduate courses for students to use in the Bachelor of University Studies Program, available statewide.

We are very pleased that the Department of Anthropology, with its other academic departmental and UNM museum partners, has developed masters degree and undergraduate certificate programs in the area of museum studies. I write to indicate Extended University's support in the curriculum approval process with the hope that, upon approval, we can engage in discussions about delivering most or all of both programs online to the State of New Mexico. We believe there will be a distance "market" for such programs.

Again, I appreciate meeting with you and look forward to a successful approval process.

Sincerely,

John B. Cornish, Ph.D.  
Director of Curriculum Planning and Program Development



**The University of New Mexico**

Maxwell Museum of Anthropology  
MSC01 1050  
1 University of New Mexico  
Albuquerque, NM 87131-0001  
(505) 277-4405

May 1, 2009

The Graduate School  
Office of Graduate Studies  
Humanities Building, Suite 107  
University of New Mexico 87131-0001

Dear Dr. Colleagues:

The proposed Graduate and Certificate Program in Museum Studies has the full support of the faculty and staff of the Maxwell Museum of Anthropology. As UNM's only accredited Museum, the Maxwell is deeply committed to the implementation of the Museum Studies Program, and has pledged to provide the essential space and administrative structure to make it successful when it is approved and funded.

Although the University of New Mexico has world-class museum resources, its museums lack an appropriate teaching program. The proposed program will fill that void and also enhance scholarship in cognate disciplines (primarily Anthropology, Art History, Biology, and Earth and Planetary Science) by increasing opportunities for advanced education, research, and service. The improved use of UNM's outstanding museum resources will bring greater scholarly value to the collections, generate new discoveries, and enable exciting research in both the social and natural sciences. The program also will strengthen New Mexico's visitor industry and enrich the fabric of New Mexico's multicultural society.

I strongly encourage you to support this proposal and facilitate its implementation.

Sincerely,

E. James Dixon, Ph.D.  
Director, Maxwell Museum of Anthropology  
Professor of Anthropology  
MSC 01 1050  
1 University of New Mexico  
Albuquerque, NM 87131-0001

Form D Attachment:

External letters of support and endorsement.



A:shiwi A:wam Museum and Heritage Center

P.O. Box 1009 Zuni, New Mexico 87327 Tel 505 782.4403 Fax 505 782.4503 url [www.ashiwi-museum.org](http://www.ashiwi-museum.org)

October 26, 2009

The UNM Museum Studies Working Group  
Maxwell Museum of Anthropology  
MSC01 1050  
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87131-0001

Dear Working Group,

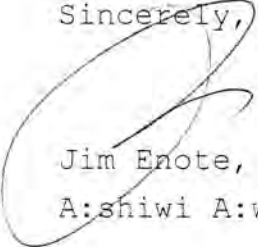
This letter is written in support of your proposal to develop a Museum Studies Program at the University of New Mexico. Museums are entering a new era as electronic media begins to take over the way we communicate. Web 2.0, social networking, and digital collections are becoming emerging contact zones for museums and I see a UNM museum studies program as a means to create new educational contact zones and co-narratives between sciences and the variety of ontologies that exist within the region. I also see a museum studies program as a means to extend sharing of public knowledge well beyond casual museum visitation to a place for different educational engagements.

As you are probably aware, tribes throughout the country are growing increasingly sophisticated and involved in how they choose to represent themselves or be represented. A UNM museum studies program would fill an existing need for tribes to grow, enlist, and strengthen museum professionalism while

providing educational or research opportunities for tribal and non-tribal museum studies students. In addition a UNM museum studies program will: 1) help meet the increasing demand for trained museum professionals with graduate-level expertise in museum studies important to the visitor industry and ancillary educational institutions, 2) provide opportunities for teaching, professional development, and graduate level education for your staff and, 3) the proposed program will provide training opportunities for individuals from underrepresented groups, including Native American tribal members for positions in emerging tribal and pueblo museums and similar cultural institutions.

If you have any questions about my enthusiastic support for a UNM museum studies program please let me know. I can be reached at 505 782.4403 or at [jimenote@mac.com](mailto:jimenote@mac.com) using email.

Sincerely,



Jim Enote, Executive Director  
A:shiwí A:wán Museum and Heritage Center

1701 Mountain Road NW      505.224.8300 voice      www.explora.us  
Albuquerque, NM              505.224.8325 fax  
87104



**explora!**

Ideas You Can Touch  
Ideas que puedes tocar

July 22, 2009

The UNM Museum Studies Working Group  
Maxwell Museum of Anthropology  
MSC 01 1050  
1 University of New Mexico  
Albuquerque, NM 87131-0001

Dear Working Group:

On behalf of Explora, I am endorsing the proposed graduate program in Museum Studies program at the University of New Mexico. We reviewed the executive summary of the proposed program and believe that the program will help meet the ever-increasing demand for trained museum professionals in New Mexico. We also believe the program will strengthen museum professionalism regionally and nationally.

We will be pleased to consider offering an internship and/or experiential practical educational opportunities to the students enrolled in the program.

Explora looks forward to partnering with UNM and participating in the many opportunities the program will present in the areas of teaching, professional development, and graduate level education. The proposed program has Explora's support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Patrick Lopez".

Dr. Patrick Lopez  
Executive Director  
505.224.8321



To: The UNM Museum Studies Working Group

From: Rita A Powdrell/President African American Museum and Cultural Center of NM  
Re: Support for Proposal for a Master of Arts and Master of Science in Museum Studies

The African American Museum and Cultural Center of New Mexico is excited about the possibility of a Masters program in Museum Studies. The ability to access graduate students and their expertise would be invaluable for a small community based museum such as ours. The graduate would be able to increase their experience and historical knowledge in working with the history of African Americans in New Mexico and the Southwest. Our Museum would benefit by the graduate students knowledge in

1. The procedures and protocol for handling collections donated to the African American Museum and Cultural Center.
2. The differing methods for archiving various materials.
3. Suggestions on the creative use of space and the showing of exhibits.
4. Assisting with collaborative exhibits with other museums to exchange culture, exchange history and to showcase how our journeys through history have impacted us the same and yet uniquely differently.

The other benefit to the graduate student is research. There is a wealth of historical information on the impact of the African American Presence in New Mexico and the Southwest. Much of this information has not been brought to the public for lack of qualified professionals with a passion and the time to research and document the information. There are many, many projects on the drawing board. How African Americans impacted athletics in the State of New Mexico. The Multifaceted and remarkable Journey of African American Educators in the State(From Segregation, to Reservation to tentative acceptance in mainstream public education), The impact of African American Women's organizations in supporting African American Culture and giving structure and transferring legacy to young African American Girls. These are just a few areas of research there are many more. What a rewarding experience and journey for a graduate student to assist in making the Visible. Vital and Valuable contributions of the African American community available for the entire NM community through placement in a museum.

Respectfully,

Rita A Powdrell  
505-345-8086/ Fax 505-345-9423



## **NEW MEXICO ASSOCIATION OF MUSEUMS**

PMB 149  
1208 San Pedro, NE  
Albuquerque, NM 87110-6762

July 25, 2009

UNM Museum Studies Working Group  
Maxwell Museum of Anthropology  
MSC01 1050  
Albuquerque, NM 87131-0001

Dear Colleagues:

The New Mexico Association of Museums fully endorses the University of New Mexico's proposed graduate program in Museum Studies. This degree program strengthens an already existing graduate minor in Museum Studies, makes excellent use of existing resources at the University, and can draw new professional and scholarly talent to our state. This program has the unique capacity to utilize New Mexico's museums (especially those at UNM) as advanced degree learning centers, and our trained professionals as educators and mentors—consequences that NMAM champions.

NMAM's mission is to provide statewide support to museums and cultural organizations through professional development, advocacy, and collaboration. In doing so, we promote excellence in the application of standards and cultivate leadership in the museum field. UNM's graduate program has these same underpinnings through a well-planned fusion of theoretical and practical knowledge, using Boulder's respected program as a model.

New Mexico's museums continue to emerge and expand. Thus, there is a sustained need for trained, astute, graduate-level museum professionals. Those seeking an educational path in this discipline must currently go out of state. An affordable, in-state museum studies graduate program can help to engage and retain individuals from underrepresented populations, especially those that are inclined towards working in tribal and other ethnically-based museums.

UNM's program can help to build proficiency in our museums, and further high standards in museum ethics, governance, education, exhibitions, collections care and management, and public accountability. On behalf of the New Mexico Association of Museums, I offer our support for this valuable graduate program in Museum Studies—a much-needed course of study for our university system to pursue. Please count on our Board and membership to participate as advocates and potential partners.

Sincerely,

Laurie J. Rufe  
NMAM President



May 8, 2009

The UNM Museum Studies Working Group  
Maxwell Museum of Anthropology  
MSC 01 1050  
1 University of New Mexico  
Albuquerque, NM 87131-0001

Dear Working Group:

On behalf of the New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science, I would like to endorse the proposed graduate program in Museum Studies program at the University of New Mexico. The program will help meet the ever-increasing demand for trained museum professionals and will strengthen museum professionalism regionally and nationally. It is important that students who wish to specialize in museum studies will have an opportunity to be educated in New Mexico. This opportunity will allow bright and talented students who qualify for in-state tuition to enter the program and gain practical experience locally. The New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science will be pleased to offer internships and hands-on practical educational opportunities to the students enrolled in the graduate program.

The New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science looks forward to partnering with UNM and participating in the many opportunities the program will present in the areas of teaching, professional development, and graduate level education. The New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science staff will support the program by providing opportunities for internships, education, and research.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Hollis J. Gillespie".

Hollis J. Gillespie  
Executive Director  
NMMNHS

# Museum Cooperative Council of Albuquerque

July 22, 2009

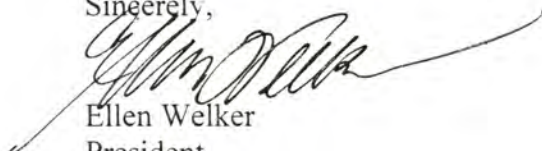
The UNM Museum Studies Working Group  
Maxwell Museum of Anthropology  
MSC 01 1050  
1 University of New Mexico  
Albuquerque, NM 87131-0001

Dear Working Group:

On behalf of the Albuquerque Museum Cooperative Council, I am endorsing the proposed graduate program in Museum Studies program at the University of New Mexico. The Council met with Dr. E. James Dixon and reviewed the executive summary of the proposed program and we believe that the program will help meet the ever-increasing demand for trained museum professionals in New Mexico. We also believe the program will strengthen museum professionalism regionally and nationally. The member organizations that comprise the Albuquerque Museum Cooperative Council will be pleased to offer internships and hands-on practical educational opportunities to the students enrolled in the graduate program.

We look forward to partnering with UNM and participating in the many opportunities the program will present in the areas of teaching, professional development, and graduate level education. The proposed program has the full support of the members of the MCC.

Sincerely,



Ellen Welker  
President

1701 Mountain Road, NW  
Albuquerque, NM 87104  
505.224.8361  
ewelker@explora.uw

# Museum of Indian Arts and Culture ■ Laboratory of Anthropology



P.O. Box 2087 Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504-2087 ■ 505-476-1250 FAX 505-476-1330 ■ [www.IndianArtsandCulture.org](http://www.IndianArtsandCulture.org)

September 22, 2009

The UNM Museum Studies Working Group  
Maxwell Museum of Anthropology  
MSC01 1050  
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87131-0001

Dear UNM Museum Studies Working Group members:

This letter is in support of The Maxwell Museum's proposal for a Masters Degree program in Museum Studies at the University of New Mexico. As a member of the Pueblo of Santa Clara and Curator of Ethnology of the Museum of Indian Arts & Culture, I strongly believe that a regional masters degree program in museum studies would be of great benefit Native communities, local museums, and the museum field as a whole.

Our institution is always open to internship opportunities, providing hands-on experience and training in varies areas on museum management. Graduate level students in museum studies would be important assets not only to our institution, but also to many museums in New Mexico, which operate on federal, state, municipal and tribal levels.

The potential collaborations between UNM students and regional museums would mutually strengthen the museum profession and the program. As a facility housing nearly 10 million artifacts and objects, we can provide a wealth of archaeological, ethnographic and archival research opportunities. In return, interns will provide crucial assistance to often-understaffed institutions.

A graduate program at UNM will also provide essential training opportunities for Native American students who will hold positions in emerging tribal and pueblo museums and cultural centers. This would also be strongly beneficial to UNM, where American Indians, particularly as graduate students, are underrepresented.

As it can be clearly seen, a masters program in Museum Studies is essential to the growth of tribal communities and the museum field as a whole. I strongly support the Maxwell Museum's efforts in establishing such a program at UNM. If you have any questions, or need additional information, please contact me at (505) 476-1253.

Sincerely,

Tony R. Chavarria  
Curator of Ethnology  
Museum of Indian Arts & Culture/Laboratory of Anthropology



.....  
CULTURAL AFFAIRS

July 25, 2009

UNM Museum Studies Working Group  
Maxwell Museum of Anthropology  
MSC01 1050  
Albuquerque, NM 87131-0001

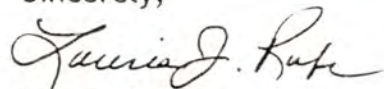
Dear Ladies and Gentlemen:

The Roswell Museum and Art Center, an AAM accredited museum with a nine-month internship program, is delighted to hear about the University of New Mexico's proposed graduate program in Museum Studies. This is a long-overdue initiative in our state that has the capacity to positively impact the museum profession in general, and enrich New Mexico's museums through internships and coursework that furthers research, collections management, and interpretation. What a great boon this program will be for UNM as a learning institution, allowing it to strengthen existing curriculum, draw upon its world-class museum resources, and expand upon interdisciplinary collaborations with scholars and content specialists.

From the perspective of a museum that regularly seeks interns, we look for stellar individuals who are poised to move into entry-level museum work with a solid intellectual, theoretical, and practical background. Your curriculum model provides this mix. We would be happy to be included as a potential internship site, and provide our facility and personnel for related curriculum-based programming.

The graduate degree program in Museum Studies is a winning proposition based on the wealth of museums per capital in New Mexico, our state's focus on cultural tourism as an economic driver, and the need to provide more affordable in-state educational opportunities for emerging professionals—especially those from underserved populations and those representing tribal and Pueblo museums. Best regards and much success in your endeavor; we fully support the goals of this program.

Sincerely,

  
Laurie J. Rufe  
Director

April 23, 2009

The UNM Museum Studies Working Group  
Maxwell Museum of Anthropology  
MSC01 1050  
Albuquerque, NM 87131-0001

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in support of the proposed Master of Arts and Master of Science program in Museum Studies at the University of New Mexico. Having been a graduate of a similar program at the University of Denver, Colorado, I can testify first hand to the value of a program at this academic level, as the Museum Studies program at DU was a significant factor in my ability to enter into a museum career. In addition, one cannot diminish the importance of a combination of study in an academic field and a museum studies focus.

From an institutional standpoint, museums today rely heavily on work study and interns to assist in the educational, curatorial, and operational programs of the museum—we could not do such a good job without their assistance. The Albuquerque Museum has a long history of engaging work study students and art, art history, anthropology, and other student interns from the University of New Mexico, and we shall continue to do so. In addition to their assistance, the museum has been willing to design individual programs to meet student needs for academic credit for independent study/practicum.

As a director for many years, I can say that a great number of positions that I have filled in the museum have been staffed with graduates of museum programs. These programs offer an institutional the ability to hire qualified people, reduce training time, and engage graduates at every level of museum operations. We would welcome the opportunity to work with the UNM Museum Studies Masters program.

Sincerely,



Cathy L. Wright  
Director





601 Eubank SE  
Albuquerque, NM 87123  
505-245-2137

The UNM Museum Studies Working Group  
Maxwell Museum of Anthropology  
MSCO1 1050  
1 University of New Mexico  
Albuquerque, NM 87131-0001

To Whom It May Concern:

Please consider this a demonstration of support for a Museum Studies program to be instituted at the University of New Mexico. We enthusiastically support the creation of such a program as it will prove beneficial to the State of New Mexico as well as those important organizations and institutions that would employ program graduates.

The National Museum of Nuclear Science & History would be willing to participate in such a program in the following ways:

- Provide internship positions across the spectrum of departments at our Museum
- Provide educational research positions in the areas of history and science
- Participate in opportunities for professional development for Museum staff
- Consider graduates for employment in our organization

This program would provide an important education and employment path for those interested in the Museum industry, which plays an important role in New Mexico.

Please call on me if you need more detail on our response to this proposed program.

Many thanks,

Jim Walther  
Director, National Museum of Nuclear Science & History

**RECEIVED**

**MAY 22 2009**

**MAXWELL MUSEUM**



# United States Department of the Interior



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
Chaco Culture National Historical Park  
Museum Collection  
Hibben Center for Archaeological Research  
450 University Blvd NE, Room 307  
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87106  
(505) 346-2871; FAX (505) 346-2523

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
H20

September 24, 2009

The UNM Museum Studies Working Group  
Maxwell Museum of Anthropology  
MSC01 1050  
Albuquerque, NM 87131-0001

Dear Dr. Dixon:

I am anxiously awaiting the implementation of the graduate program in Museum Studies at the University of New Mexico. As an on-site partner, Chaco Culture National Historical Park stands ready to offer internships and research opportunities to students. Internships with us would provide students with experience in museum technician, archives technician, and museum specialist federal job series, and help train people for careers with the federal government. The National Park Service manages over 123 million museum objects and archives, is second only to the Smithsonian Institution in the size of its collections, and needs trained museum professionals in its workforce.

The Chaco Museum Collection is primarily a research collection, and 36 CFR 79, "Curation of Federally-Owned and Administered Archeological Collections," requires us to make our collections available for scientific and education uses. Over the years UNM students have used our collections for masters' and Ph.D.-level research. However, research opportunities are still extensive, particularly as evolving technologies allow us to answer old questions with new data.

I am particularly hopeful that the development of a graduate program in Museum Studies here in New Mexico will encourage Native American students to choose careers in museums. As a federal entity, Chaco Culture NHP is committed to providing opportunities for tribal members to train with, and hopefully eventually work for, the National Park Service.

Please let me know if there is anything I can do to lend support and encourage UNM to move forward expeditiously with this important program.

Sincerely,

Wendy Bustard, Ph.D.  
Museum Curator  
[wendy\\_bustard@nps.gov](mailto:wendy_bustard@nps.gov)

# MUSEUM OF INTERNATIONAL FOLK ART

P.O. Box 2087  
Santa Fe, NM USA  
87504-2087

Marsha C. Bol, Ph.D.  
Director  
TEL 505 476-1200  
FAX 505 476-1300  
[internationalfolkart.org](http://internationalfolkart.org)

January 13, 2012

Dr. Joyce M. Szabo  
Regents' Professor of Art History  
Department of Art and Art History  
University of New Mexico

Dear Professor Szabo:

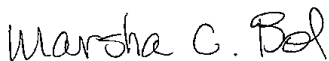
I am very pleased, as Director of the Museum of International Folk Art, to write in support of UNM's proposed Graduate Program in Museum Studies. The state of New Mexico is fortunate to have an abundance of nationally-acclaimed museums, particularly given the limited population and economy of the state. Arts and culture contribute \$3.3 billion dollars annually to New Mexico's overall economy. Certainly a graduate program in Museum Studies is warranted to train students to fulfill the needs of our museums for professionally-trained staff.

Personally, I am a graduate of the UNM Department of Art and Art History. I began my museum career 30 years ago by forging my own Museum Studies program at UNM - taking the only two Museums Studies courses that were available and wrangling an internship at the Maxwell Museum of Anthropology and another internship at the Museum of International Folk Art. I received credits for the internships as Independent Studies. In that era museums were willing to hire staff, who had very little museum training. But those days have changed. Today museums expect to be able to hire well-trained or experienced staff. Jobs are competitive. For New Mexico students to be able to compete in our state and elsewhere, they have to meet the education and training requirements to make them viable candidates for museum jobs.

The Museum of International Folk Art would welcome accepting Museum Studies graduate students as interns to work in our various departments or to work on research projects in our collections and research library. Our collections number 135,000 objects, making this the largest collection of folk art in the world.

This graduate program would serve the needs of the museums, galleries, and many other cultural institutions in New Mexico, and in return, we in New Mexico museums would be glad to assist in the training programs in collaboration with the University of New Mexico.

Sincerely,



Marsha C. Bol, Ph.D.  
Director  
Museum of International Folk Art

Form D Attachment:

Letters of support from associated universities



**Department of Natural Sciences**

P. O. Box 680 Silver City, New Mexico 88062

575-538-6227

[www.wnmu.edu](http://www.wnmu.edu)

Fax 575-538-6228

Feb. 3 2012

To the New Mexico Council of Graduate Deans,

In this letter, I express my strong support for the proposed UNM Graduate Program in Museum Studies. This proposal clearly establishes the significance of museums as repositories of scientific specimens and cultural artifacts that inform the public, engage and excite students in New Mexico public schools and universities, and provide the foundation for much ongoing research in this state (including my own). As curator of the Dale A. Zimmerman Herbarium at Western New Mexico University (11 years), I frequently interact with personnel in the UNM Museum of Southwestern Biology and have become very aware of the high quality and wide scope of the collections housed therein, as well as the flagship nature of these museums within the New Mexico university system. Hence, UNM is the logical institution to offer this much needed program.

This proposal makes a strong case for the need of a graduate program in museum studies in this state, including the existence of 90 such programs elsewhere in the United States but none in New Mexico despite this state's ranking as tenth in the country in the number of museums per capita. Furthermore, the authors of this proposal have carefully projected viable graduate enrollment and associated graduate credit hours in this program (if approved) through analysis of enrollment data in a similar program at the University of Colorado at Boulder. And, the need for professionals with training in museum studies is supported by the presentation of recent (Dec. 2011) museum-related job listings in New Mexico (16) and in adjacent states (23).

It is clear that the University of New Mexico is ideally positioned and prepared to offer this program, with its five museums each containing significant collections, as well as qualified museum curators and faculty members to teach all of the courses listed in the proposed degree plan. Furthermore, all but one (MSST 475/575 Museum Interpretation) of the courses listed in the proposed degree plan currently exist in the UNM course catalog. Thus, implementation of this graduate degree in Museum Studies would require very little investment of additional resources by UNM.

In conclusion, it seems to me that approval of the Graduate Program in Museum Studies outlined in this thorough, well-crafted proposal is a "win-win" proposition.

William R. Norris

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of the name 'William R. Norris' in a cursive script, followed by a large, stylized flourish that loops back under the name.

Dr. William R. Norris  
Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology and Curator of the Dale A. Zimmerman  
Herbarium  
Department of Natural Sciences  
Western New Mexico University  
PO Box 680  
1000 W. College Ave.  
Silver City, NM 88062  
[norrisw@wnmu.edu](mailto:norrisw@wnmu.edu)  
(575) 538-6625 (office)  
(575) 538-6228 (FAX)



January 18th, 2012

To the New Mexico Council of Graduate Deans;

I am writing this letter in support of the proposal for a UNM graduate program in museum studies. I am aware of the commitment that many faculty and invested parties have made in designing a carefully crafted curriculum that will prepare students for careers in museums, galleries and other cultural institutions.

As the chair of the media arts department at New Mexico Highlands University, and the director of our Program in Interactive Cultural Technology (PICT) I have had the opportunity to work with museums throughout New Mexico and the southwest. Often, we deploy media experts in to museums that do not have enough well-trained staff in the areas of content curation, registration and administrative management.

Ideally, a museum studies program would involve interdisciplinary study across different content areas, allowing students to learn about the needs of different types of museums, and the management needs of large vs. small institutions. The UNM program is designed to address these concerns.

As a member of the New Mexico Association of Museums, and presenter at their annual conference, I frequently hear talk of the need for an in-state museum studies program. This would minimize the need for museums to conduct employment searches outside of New Mexico. As a faculty member at a state university serving a local population, this is extremely important to me.

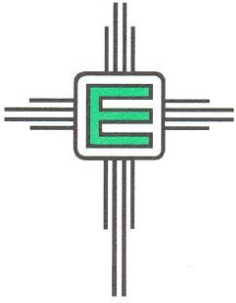
The media arts department at NMHU will happily work with museum studies students through PICT, and in offering supplementary courses in appropriate technologies, if needed. Our faculty would be happy to participate as mentors and thesis committee members as well. If you have any questions concerning our support of this new program, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Miriam Langer  
Associate Professor of Media Arts  
Chair, Department of Media Arts  
melanger@nmhu.edu







Dr. John Montgomery  
Blackwater Draw Museum  
Department of Anthropology and Applied Archaeology  
Campus Station 53  
Eastern New Mexico University  
Portales, New Mexico 88130

January 24, 2012

Dr. James Dixon  
Director, Maxwell Museum of Anthropology  
MSC01 1050  
1 University of New Mexico  
Albuquerque, NM 87131-0001

Dear Dr. Dixon:

I have had an opportunity to review the University of New Mexico's proposal for a master's degree in museum studies, and based on my review, I support this proposal.

From my reading, I understand that the proposed program offers new opportunities for cooperation and collaboration between the Blackwater Draw Museum of ENMU and UNM. Specifically, the proposed program has a thesis or project track that will possibly provide new opportunities for ENMU and UNM faculty to partner and encourage students in these graduate level endeavors and participate in thesis committees.

Program will provide new pathways for experiential learning for students. In addition, the proposed interdisciplinary graduate program will create an important new educational option for undergraduates exposed to museum work or museum studies at ENMU.

To my knowledge, this specific type of program is not offered elsewhere in New Mexico, and there exists a need to develop students who can become professional workers within a state where historic preservation and heritage tourism are a growing economic engine.

Thesis, projects and internships that focus on ENMU museum collections, exhibits and programs also will make important contributions to ENMU collections, galleries, and programs.


Dr. Dixon  
January 24, 2012  
Page 2

The Blackwater Draw Museum welcomes opportunities to collaborate with UNM to developing these types of opportunities.

If you have any questions, please contact me by phone at (575) 562-2180 or by e-mail at [john.montgomery@enmu.edu](mailto:john.montgomery@enmu.edu).

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to hearing that this proposal is supported.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John Montgomery". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping "J" and "M".

Dr. John Montgomery

Professor

Director, Blackwater Draw Museum