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University of New Mexico Communication and Marketing Department

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An author and an advocate for children-both of whom have had a profound influence on the lives of many New Mexicans-will receive honorary degrees at the University of New Mexico's 2002 Spring Commencement ceremony, Saturday, May 11, at 9 a.m. in the University Arena ("The Pit"). A total of 2,578 degrees are projected to be conferred upon UNM main campus graduates at the ceremony. Of the total, the projected breakdown is as follows: 1,911 bachelor's degrees; 338 master's degrees; 63 doctorate degrees; 102 juris doctorate degrees; 3 post-master's degrees; 69 medical doctorate degrees; 84 pharmacy doctorate degrees; and 8 education specialists degrees. New Mexico resident, author and poet Simon J. Ortiz will receive an Honorary Doctorate of Letters Degree and Angela "Angie" Vachio, executive director of Peanut Butter and Jelly Family Services, Inc. (PB&J) <http://www.unm.edu/news/Releases/May3Commence.htm>

Barbara O. Reyes, assistant professor of history at the University of New Mexico, has been awarded a Ford Foundation Post-doctoral Fellowship for one year. As part of the fellowship, Reyes will conduct research on indigenous, Mestiza and Spanish women from 19th Century California. Her project is titled "Private Women/Public Lives: Women in the 19th Century California Missions. The mentor for the project is Professor Vicki L. Ruiz, endowed chair in Chicana History at the University of California-Irvine. Reyes indicated that the fellowship will allow her to concentrate on research and writing. <http://www.unm.edu/news/Releases/May6reyes.htm>

University of New Mexico Assistant Professor of Biology Thomas F. Turner has received a \$500,000 grant over five years from the National Science Foundation's (NSF) Faculty Early Career Development Program (CAREER) to create an integrated research and educational program for museum-based approaches to ecology and the evolution of aquatic systems. The award is designed to build an education and research program that focuses on the collection of fishes in the Museum of Southwestern Biology (MSB) at UNM using state-of-the-art techniques for students and those interested in water management practices. <http://www.unm.edu/news/Releases/May6turner.htm>