



Student Profile

Graduate Student from Electrical Engineering

**Dawn Walaitis**

Academic Advisor  
Dr. Kevin Wedeward

New Mexico Tech recently invested in three photovoltaic systems on campus. Not only do the photovoltaic systems offer shade for our cars, but they also provide power distribution systems, such as the one that feeds NMT's campus, an opportunity for improved performance. Coordinated control of the inverters that connect photovoltaic systems to the power system as well as other inverter-based resources (e.g., storage) will enable operational and reliability-related objectives to be achieved in addition to the overall goal of reducing energy needed from the utility.

Dawn Walaitis is a Master's student in the Department of Electrical Engineering. Along with her advisor, Kevin Wedeward, Dawn's research centers on making use of inverters' inherent power injection and voltage control algorithms through coordinated control of them. Approaches to coordinated control are being developed for a three-phase model of an underground distribution system roughly based on NMT's campus. Power consumption data collected from NMT's buildings and photovoltaic systems, along with the mathematical model of the distribution network, are used for the simulation test bed.

In addition to her research, Dawn has had the opportunity to participate as the Scientist at Explora's *Meet a Scientist Café*, an event designed to inspire curiosity in science by connecting local teens with Scientists and Engineers. Dawn's research is funded by NM EPSCoR, an organization which gave her the opportunity to attend a two-month workshop focused on effective science communication to the public. Recently, Dawn was one of ten students, and the only female graduate student, to represent NM EPSCoR to the National Science Foundation for review of the NM SMART Grid Center, a \$20 million grant funded by the NSF.

New Series  
**Research Ethics**

Sponsored by  
the Office for Research Compliance

While 5% to 10% of researchers admit to falsifying data, fabricating results, or plagiarizing (De Vrieze, 2021), around 50% of researchers struggle with more "questionable research practices" such as selective citations and not reporting negative results (Gopalakrishna et al., 2021). This new series, sponsored by the Office of Research, aims to provide more robust education in research integrity to handle these challenging ethical issues that go beyond the bare minimum of avoiding obvious misconduct.

There will be 4 events throughout the 2021-22 academic year, based on topics selected in a survey of the NMT community. All events are free, recorded, and open to any NMT students, faculty, and staff, including all NMT affiliates. Please share this event with your colleagues, labs, research groups, students, and friends. \*Additionally, for any labs or research groups that attend at least 3 workshops, your team will be eligible for a free dinner raffle.\*

**Tuesday 9.21**  
**Coi 2021**  
**CONFLICTS of INTEREST Research Ethics series**  
Location: MSEC 101  
Time: Noon-1:30 PM  
Event recorded  
Open to NMT students, faculty, & staff  
Register with Christopher.ChoGlueck@nmt.edu

News

**New home for GSA**

We are happy to report that the GSA now has a new space in the Library Room 108 that will hopefully be a nice social place for graduate students and will promote lots of interactions.

**Very successful GSA/SGA graduate student BBQ**

On August 19th, the Graduate Student Association and the Office of Graduate Studies held the Fall 2021 graduate student BBQ. The event was very well attended. We greatly appreciate all those that participated, and special thanks to those that helped setting up and with cleanup afterwards.



Important Dates

**09/18**

**GSA Pool Party (4pm-5pm)**

The GSA will be hosting a pool party 9/18 at 4:30pm to 8pm at the NMT pool. They will be providing food, music, and fun. Come have some fun before summer ends!

**09/25**

**GSA Meeting**

The GSA will be hosting their first general meeting at the library in the Tripp Room. They will be providing food. This meeting will be an overview of what GSA is and how they can collectively use the organization to help graduate students.

**11/29**

**Completion paperwork for Fall graduation**

If you are planning to graduate in December the completed report of the advisory committee, iThenticate report from academic advisor, and ProQuest submission of the final thesis/dissertation must be submitted to and accepted by the Center for Graduate Studies or one final copy of an accepted independent study paper must be submitted to the student's advisor and advisory committee. Please refer to the [Completion Guideline](#) on the CGS website.

Student degrees are not complete until final materials have been approved by the Center for Graduate Studies and the student receives final acceptance via email from the ProQuest system.

Scholarships

There are some Endowed scholarship opportunities open to graduate students, which are listed [here on the Endowed Scholarship website](#). Native American graduate students should contact the Financial Aid Office for information for additional scholarship opportunities (financial\_aid@nmt.edu).

Graduate Student Association

**Mariana Huckabee**  
President

**Jacob Gochenour**  
Vice President

**Jessica Aerts**  
Information Officer

**Luis Contreras-Vidal**  
Appropriations Officer

**Magdalen Grismer**  
Travel Officer

**Qingqing Ling**  
Events Officer

We are still accepting travel grant applications for the fall semester. We also encourage you to apply for spring semester travel grants early to ensure funding is secured.

Center for Graduate Studies

**Barbara Reynolds**  
Recruiting & Contracts

**Karen Chavez**  
Admission & Student Success

**Nahid Samimimotlagh**  
AA Technology Support & Data Analytics

**Aly El-Osery**  
Dean of Graduate Studies

*We love to hear from you*

<https://www.nmt.edu/gradstudies>  
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