

# The University of New Mexico



## Department of Linguistics

is pleased to present

## Joyce McDonough

University of Rochester

### **Paradigmatic relations in Navajo morphology: learnability and the lexicon**

The Navajo 'verb' is a verbal complex constituting a complex 'polysynthetic' inflectional system that carries significant information. These verbal complexes reside dense neighborhoods of closely related forms that differ from each other in systematic and clearly learnable ways. Thus the relationship among these word forms must be reliable, and organized in ways that facilitate reliable patterns between a known word form and a related form. The goal of this research is to investigate the patterns that whole words participate in, to identify any constituent parts, and to provide a reliable description of the structure of verbal complex based on these patterns, and crucially not on decompositional morphemic analyses (i.e. templates), that may serve as a realistic working model of the organization of a native speaker's lexicon.

Joyce McDonough is a Professor of Linguistics at the University of Rochester in Rochester New York. She is a phonologist and phonetician working on the sound structure of Navajo and its sister Athabaskan languages to understand a speaker's knowledge of word structure, based on the understanding that speech is the primary means of communication and learning.

**Friday, March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

**1:00 PM**

**Humanities Building Room 134**



Interpreter provided upon request