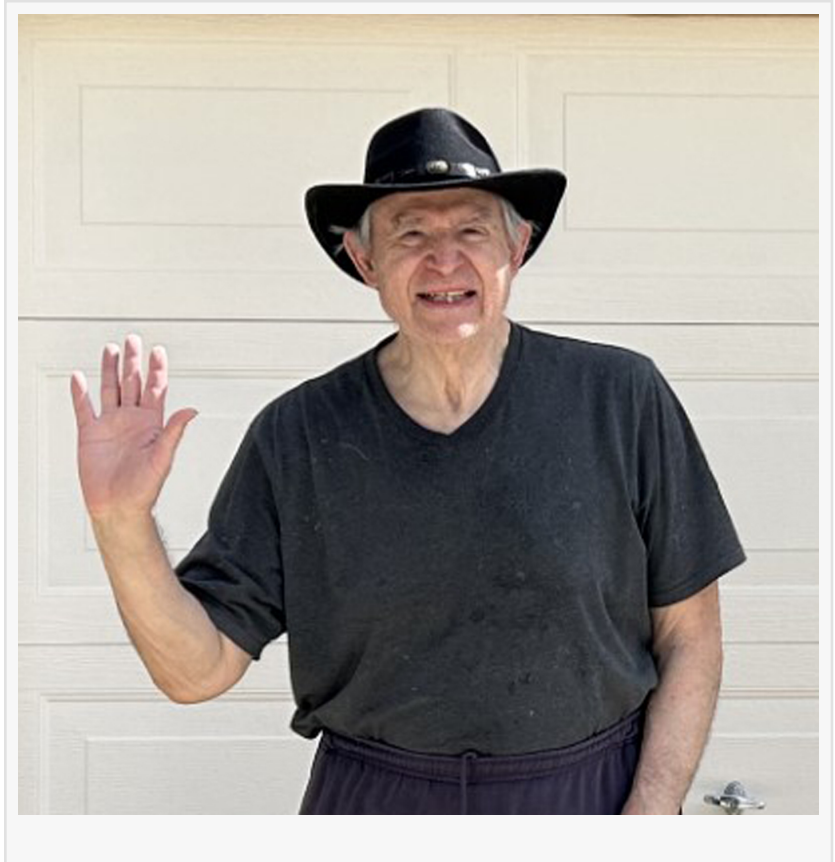


Retired Regents Professor Dr. Joseph G. Martinez of the UNM College of Education Recently Featured on Close Up Radio

ALBUQUERQUE, NM, UNITED STATES, April 3, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- What if you discovered the story you've always told about your life was missing key pieces? What if, after decades as an esteemed educator, discoveries about your childhood, genetics, and true parentage turned your world upside down, all while fueling your successes? Such is the ongoing story of Joseph G. Martinez, Retired Regents Professor at the University of New Mexico College of Education. His journey weaves a tapestry of resilience, brilliance, and faith, a living puzzle as complex and fascinating as the mathematics he has devoted his life to teaching.



Joseph G. Martinez's story begins with a secret even he did not know: He was born with a rare genetic condition called pernicious anemia. Most newborn boys with this inherited disease do not survive infancy, and so, Joseph's survival puzzled doctors. For the first five years of his life, he lived not with family, but in a hospital, without the language or warmth. Adoption brought him into the Martinez family, where, despite the new name, he always felt a little out of place.

Yet Joseph's early years came with an extraordinary twist. Isolated as a child, he claims to have discovered companionship not from those around him, but from a profound spiritual connection with what he refers to as the Trinity. This sense of being watched over would, he says, become a guiding force in every chapter of his life—a mysterious undercurrent in the story he continues to unravel.

A photographic memory and extraordinary aptitude for mathematics set Joseph apart from an

early age. Imagine a child not only learning algebra before his seventh birthday, but teaching it by the age of ten. His ability, as strange as it seemed to those around him, ultimately led him to a doctorate in mathematics education and educational psychology. His first teaching role at what was then the University of Albuquerque began humbly: 15 students, 150 algebra problems, and a jarring realization that, for all his intellect, connecting with students required learning how others learn. With guidance from his wife Nancy (a mathematics and physics double major herself), Joseph painstakingly reworked his teaching approach, breaking concepts into comprehensible steps. The result was a classroom where students who once dreaded algebra became math majors themselves, and Joseph's career as an educator flourished.

The mystery of Joseph's early life would not remain buried. In 2012, a doctor's question about pernicious anemia in his siblings led to a discovery: Joseph's genetics did not match those of the family that raised him. DNA analysis soon revealed a cosmopolitan ancestry of Italian, German, Irish, Spanish, Portuguese, Basque, and even Andean South American, with each piece adding another clue to the puzzle of his origins.

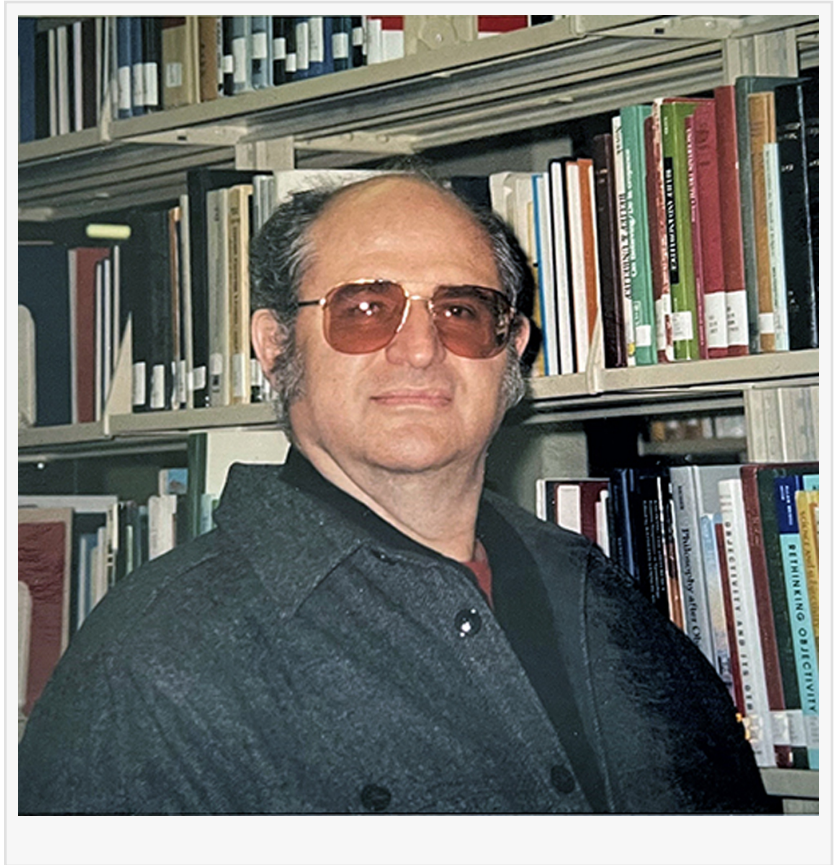
The revelation deepened when family secrets came to light. In a private conversation, his Aunt Mary disclosed that Joseph's official birth records were inaccurate. Not only were his listed parents not his biological family, but he was, in fact, born at Los Alamos National Laboratory during the Manhattan Project, the son of a nuclear physicist. Further DNA sleuthing pointed to an astonishing possibility: His biological father may have been Enrico Fermi,



the legendary Italian physicist.

Even as Joseph pieced together his own story, he never lost sight of his passion for teaching and belief in a higher purpose. At the University of New Mexico, he brought his unique approach to graduate statistics, calculus, and algebra, advocating for patience, step-by-step explanations, and a belief that anyone can learn, even those of us who are convinced otherwise.

Throughout it all, Joseph credits his spiritual beliefs for giving him both comfort and courage. He describes ongoing dialogues with the Trinity, often seeking wisdom from what he describes as the distinctly feminine Holy Spirit—an unconventional perspective shaped by a lifetime of both solitude and connection.



After the passing of his wife Nancy in 2021, Joseph has continued to find meaning in both his spiritual calling and academic legacy. He sees his future as a blend of risk and hope, especially as he considers educational outreach to Orthodox Jewish communities, a quest he acknowledges could be fraught with difficulty.

A tapestry threaded with survival, curiosity, and the pursuit of truth, Joseph G. Martinez's story is still unfolding. To some, his is the story of a mathematician who teaches with heart. To others, his is the story of a man who survived against all odds and continues to explore both science and faith in search of answers about himself and the world.

Close Up Radio recently featured Joseph G. Martinez in an interview with Jim Masters on Monday March 30th at 4pm Eastern

[Listen to the Podcast](#)

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/close-up-radio-welcomes-back-retired-regents-professor/id1785721253?i=1000758388358>

<https://www.iheart.com/podcast/269-close-up-radio-242020413/episode/close-up-radio-welcomes-back-retired-regents-professor-dr-joseph-g-martinez-of-the-university-of-new-mexico-college-of-education-328566205>

<https://open.spotify.com/episode/5g7ha2a6l9oYdKlus724fv>

For more information about Joseph G. Martinez, please visit
<https://marquistopeducators.com/2024/06/20/joseph-martinez/>

Lou Ceparano

Close Up Television & Radio

+1 631-850-3314

[email us here](#)

Visit us on social media:

[Facebook](#)

This press release can be viewed online at: <https://www.einpresswire.com/article/903119762>

EIN Presswire's priority is source transparency. We do not allow opaque clients, and our editors try to be careful about weeding out false and misleading content. As a user, if you see something we have missed, please do bring it to our attention. Your help is welcome. EIN Presswire, Everyone's Internet News Presswire™, tries to define some of the boundaries that are reasonable in today's world. Please see our Editorial Guidelines for more information.

© 1995-2026 Newsmatics Inc. All Right Reserved.