49ers 2007 Includes MRO, EMRTC Tours, Night at The Cap

Start growing beards and making plans to be in Socorro on October 18-21 for the upcoming 49ers Weekend and Alumni Homecoming. And it’s Golden Reunion for the classes of 1957 and earlier, and Silver Reunion for the classes of 1972-1982. The weekend kicks off on Thursday, October 18 with The Vigilantes Band playing at The Capitol Bar, where they’ll hold court every evening of the event. The New Mexico Tech Alumni Association will host a reception at The Cap the evening of Saturday, October 20.

Guys, think creative! Tech’s traditional beard-growing contest will feature prizes in the Most Creative, Best Historical, and Definite Longest categories. Thanks to Van Romoos (“77-79, Physics), now Tech’s vice president for research and economic development, for contest prizes.

Don McKelvey (‘60, Chemistry) has set up a blog directly to http://mysite.verizon.net/mckelvey7/, where alumni can contact one another and share plans. He also features the 5th Annual 49ers Gold Rush Golf Scramble, hosted by the local student chapters of the Society for Petroleum Engineers, an event that gets underway at 9 a.m., followed by a shotgun start at 9:30 a.m. Contact Karen Balch at kbalch@nmt.edu for information.

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Judy (Oliver) Lovelace will welcome alumni to her home on Friday evening for a barbeque dinner and the annual Alumni Association meeting. Be there to help the association make decisions on how to serve you best.

Dr. M. Smoake, Tech biology professor emeritus, is the Grand Marshall for Saturday morning’s 49ers Parade. Starting at 11 a.m., the parade concludes in the Socorro Plaza, where winners of the beard-growing contest will be announced.

The weekend also includes the traditional rugby, soccer and volleyball matches, and the Paint the “M” M-Mountain Run. Other plans are still being made.

Complete details are on the alumni website at www.nmt.edu/alum/links/index.htm.

Van has also helped arrange a Friday tour of the university’s Energetic Materials Research and Testing Center (EMRTC), where many things explode. Friday evening there is a tour the new Magdalena Ridge Observatory (MRO). To reserve space contact Carol Lynn Tiegts at ctiegs@admin.nmt.edu.

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Be sure to help us by letting us know that you’ll be here. Contact Carol Lynn Tiegts at ctiegs@admin.nmt.edu or 505-835-5292 to RSVP. We’re all looking forward to seeing you in Socorro.

Wilkening Endowed Faculty Position in Physics

New Mexico Tech seeks to honor the late Prof. Marvin H. Wilkening by establishing the Marvin H. Wilkening Endowed Faculty Position in Physics. Dr. Wilkening, who was professor emeritus of physics and dean emeritus of graduate studies at New Mexico Tech, passed away on Sept. 24, 2006. The endowed position will be used to help fund a faculty position in the Department of Physics.

Dr. Wilkening was an internationally recognized authority on radon gas, atmospheric ions and radioactive aerosols, author of more than 35 papers and a book, and active member of numerous state, national, and international committees.

Marvin and his late wife, Ruby, were known for creating a welcoming and supportive atmosphere for generations of international students, post-doctoral fellows, and visiting scientists and their families.

At New Mexico Tech, Dr. Wilkening served as chair of the Department of Physics for 15 years. As a faculty member in the department, he conducted research on the atmospheric environment, both indoors and outdoors, specializing in the use of radon gas and its decay products as powerful investigative tools.

As Dean of Graduate Studies at Tech for 16 years, Dr. Wilkening helped students in all of Tech’s science and engineering fields complete their advanced degrees. This endowment is a fitting tribute to Dr. Wilkening’s legacy of teaching and research. Gifts will be matched by available State of New Mexico faculty endowment funds.

Back to Tech after 50 Years

Colgate Craig (‘59, Mining) was among graduates of 50 years ago who marched in Socorro on October 18-21 for the upcoming 49ers Weekend and Alumni Homecoming. And it’s Golden Reunion for the classes of 1957 and earlier, and Silver Reunion for the classes of 1972-1982. The weekend kicks off on Thursday, October 18 with The Vigilantes Band playing at The Capitol Bar, where they’ll hold court every evening of the event. The New Mexico Tech Alumni Association will host a reception at The Cap the evening of Saturday, October 20.

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Love Us, Love Our Dogs

Get to know Director for Advancement Cheryl Pulaski and Assistant Director for Advancement Carol Lynn Tiegts for long and you’ll get to know Howie and Bella Rose as well.

Howie, Cheryl’s yellow Labrador retriever, has been with her for 10 years. “I was reading the Valencia County News-Bulletin one day and saw an ad for labs,” Cheryl said. “I had two at the time and I just wanted to look. But this pudgy, waddly boy came running out from a litter of eight, and ended up going home to join Malcolm and Lillian Gray.”

Howie has honed his chief skills over the years. “Being so cute is his saving grace,” Cheryl said. “When he decides to feather the house in down pillow, he just stands there like he’s done a creative work of art. And his smiling face and waggy tail make him a great guest greeter.”

Three-year old Bella Rose has been the perfect girl since Carol Lynn encountered her as an eight-week old in the moldy semi-ghost town of Crestone, Colo. “She’s slept through the night and been totally housebroken since the moment I brought her home,” said Carol Lynn. “And, she’s even charmed herself into adopting godparents.”

Carol Lynn describes Bella Rose as “... best of breeds. Of all the breeds she is, she’s the best of them.”

Cheryl and Carol Lynn would enjoy hearing other pet tales. Send stories and photos to Carol Lynn at ctiegs@admin.nmt.edu or Office for Advancement, New Mexico Tech, 801 Leroy Place, Socorro, NM 87801.
Passings

Keneth Bayer, a 1938 graduate in geological engineering, passed away January 27, 2007 at age 90. He was born in the Bronx, and after earning his degree from the New Mexico School of Mines, Ken spent his next 25 years working on geological and geophysical projects around the globe.

Ken spent his second quarter century working for the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey (U.S. Dept. of Commerce) and the USGS. After his retirement in 1988, Ken resided in northern VA. He and his wife Vivian had three children and two grandchildren.

Richard Bronanan passed away on Feb. 4, 2007, at the age of 82. He earned his Master's in Science Teaching degree at New Mexico Tech in 1971 and was a longtime teacher in Belen, having a great impact on hundreds of budding scientists.

He was president of the Southwest Geological Society and a New Mexico district director of Boy Scouts of America. He is survived by his wife of 40 years, Gloria; four sons and four daughters; 16 grandchildren and 26 great-grandchildren.

Lavin "Len" Hawes, a 1953 graduate in chemistry, passed away on March 9, 2007 at his home in Runaway Bay, Queensland, Australia. According to his brother, William Hawes (60, BS, mining engineering), Len had a colorful life, which included teaching chemistry at the National University of Canberra and running two boomerang parks. A more detailed account of Len's life appears on the Tech alumni website.

Larry Libersky (78, Ph.D., physics), passed away in March 2007. He was born on June 11, 1946. After earning his Ph.D. at New Mexico Tech, Larry joined Tech's Terminal Effects Research and Analysis (TERA) group in 1979 as a post-doc. He worked for them as a research physicist through 1997, when he left for other employment. At the time of his death, he worked at Los Alamos National Laboratory. According to his family, physics was his profession, which he loved, but his passion was playing trumpet and guitar, composing his own songs, and writing many articles concerning spiritual matters. He was a resident of Magdalena.

Daniel Abraham Ruddy, a 1934 alumnus of the New Mexico School of Mines, passed away on March 5, 2007. Dan was born February 7, 1912, in Russell and had a long and illustrious career in mining engineering. After his retirement in 1977, he was involved in rockhounding and lapidary.

Florence M. Walker, age 94, formerly of Socorro and Green River, Wyo., passed away Thursday, February 15, 2007 on the Sarah A. Todd Memorial Home, Carlisle, PA. Florence was known to many alumni as an administrative assistant in the Graduate Office of New Mexico Tech. After retirement at age 67, she completed her college education, earning a bachelor's degree with highest honors from Tech.

Amber Alice Woodyatt was a lifelong advocate of animal rights and was formerly employed at the Ark of Sooner Veterinary Clinic. The family requests that donations be made in her memory to the Animal Protective Association of Oklahoma.

Alumni Survey/Sign-up

Name: ____________________________________________
Address: _________________________________________
Phone: ____________________________ E-mail: __________
Preferred contact media: __________________________
Occupation: ________________________________

I would be interested in an alumni chapter in my area. Yes _______ No _______

Activities I’d like to see through a local alumni chapter are: __________________________________________

Any other news or ideas? ____________________________________________________________

Make sure you are an active Alumni Association member eligible to vote at the Annual Meeting. Free gift when you send your Alumni Association dues.

Annual Alumni Association Dues enclosed ($30 or $50/alumni couple) ___________
Lifetime membership dues enclosed ($200/individual or $350/alumni couple) ________
Check enclosed ___________
Please charge $_________ to my ____ Visa ____ MasterCard

Account #: ___________________________ Exp. Date: ___________
People You Know

1960s

Barney P. Popkins ('65, water quality), for the past 2½ years has been providing environmental procedures and environmentally sound design training and project monitoring, and evaluation services to missions in over 20 countries in Asia and the Near East.

Chia-Li Wei ('99, BS, metallurgical eng.) has been appointed as senior director of technology at AXI Inc. of Fremont, CA. He is responsible for directing all aspects of the company’s technology development.

1970s

David L. Goodrich ('78, MS, hydrology) is a licensed geologist and a member of the American Institute of Hydrology. He has been working for the State of NC as a groundwater specialist for 14 years. He and his wife Margaret have two children, who are home-schooled.

De. Scant Sandford ('78, BS, physics; ’78, BS, math) had a good year in 2006. He was named a Fellow of the Meteoritical Society, received the NASA Ames Scientist Award, and received the Astronomical Association of Northern California’s Award for Outstanding and Continuous Support in Distinguishing and Fostering Amateur Astronomy.

Sandford is a scientist at NASA Ames Research Center in California, working in the fields of meteoritics, astrochemistry, and cometary science. He is a co-leader of Ames’ Astrochemistry Laboratory and an editor of the journal Meteoritics and Planetary Science.

De. Terry Wallace ('78, BS, math; ’78, BS, geophysics) has been named as Los Alamos National Laboratory’s principal associate director for science, technology and engineering. Wallace has been the acting associate director since June 2006. He joined the lab’s technical staff in May 2003. Before joining Los Alamos, he was a professor of geosciences at the University of Arizona. He also was an associate in the applied mathematics graduate program, curator of the University of Arizona Mineral Museum, and director of the Southern Arizona Seismic Observatory.

1980s

De. Charlotte Rowe ('81, BS, geology; ’00, Ph.D., geophysics) participates for the fourth time in the annual Vail Invitational Figure Skating Championships on July 11 to 14. Charlotte writes, “I started skating competitively about four years ago, and of course I enter the Vail competition as much for the beautiful trip as for the skating. It’s a good (if expensive) excuse to take a weekend and head for a spectacular part of the Rockies in the middle of summer. If I didn’t have so much junk to haul up there with skates, costumes, yadda yadda, I’d probably do it on my motorcycle.

In her spare time, Charlotte doubles as a seismologist. In August 2007, she celebrates her five-year service at San Juan Community College in Seattle as a member of the committee on seismology and geodyssey.

Martty Nelson ('82, MST) retired from public school teaching in Shippock and is now relaxing as an adjunct faculty member at San Juan Community College in Geology and Astronomy. She also keeps busy bringing up two active teenage daughters.

Dr. Aileen A. O’Donoghue ('87, MS, physics; ’89, Ph.D., physics) has been named to the Henry Priest Chair of Physics at St. Lawrence University in Canton, New York. Aileen joined the faculty at St. Lawrence in 1988. She spent the 2001-2002 academic year on sabbatical at the Vatican Observatory Research Group in Tucson, and has written the “Mountain Skies” column for Arizona Public magazine. In addition to her astronomy research, O’Donoghue also has an interest in the connections between science and religion; in 2001, she participated in the physics and cosmology group of the Science and the Spiritual Quest discussions sponsored by the Center for Theology and the Natural Sciences in Paris, with the support of a grant from the Templeton Foundation. She is under contract to write a book about her spiritual journey.

1990s

Eric Hobbs ('93, BS, physics) writes, “My punny Y chromosomes once again lost the battle against hetri ju (heterosxous) Hobbs (94, BS, business) my dextrous X chromosomes, and the result was our second daughter. Kayler Autumn Hobbs was born on July 18, 2006. She and her 4-year-old sister, Jolene, are having a great time playing together. Betti is taking a brief hiatus from being a special education teacher to be fantastic mommy. Eric is a solutions engineer for Talent Technology Corp, and we’re all still living in the suburbs of San Antonio, TX. Yee haw!”

Alan Kerr ('98, BS, geoscience; ’99, BS, computer science) and Stephanie Moore ('95, BS, technical communication) were featured in the June 7 issue of New Mexico Magazine for their work in providing a safe haven for turtles at their home in San Acacia, NM. Stephany, new research science manager at New Mexico Tech, currently shelters turtles in 1996 while working for a contractor at the Stallion Site on White Sands Missile Range. Turtles on the Range were suffering from the effects of severe drought in 1995. Kerr, now a scientist in the Array Operations Center at the NRAO, became hooked on the turtles as well. Concerned about the ever-decreasing habitat for turtles in New Mexico, Stephany and Alan currently house some two dozen turtles of assorted types on their five-acre property.

Dawson S. ('formerly Marjorie) Ward ('93, BS, physics) recently left the Bisbee Federation of Wisconsin and accepted a position as a program planning analyst senior at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Department of Transportation Services, Transportation Demand Management Program. She writes, “With 65,000 students and faculty and 13,000 parking spaces, it’s my job to try to convince people not to drive to campus. I am also currently playing in three bands and still carrying on a long-distance relationship with my partner of 11 years, Tracy.”

Dawson up with this day-to-day minata of Dar’s live, visit http://www.mlembiteabgo.blogspot.com/.

Cort Dought (’96, BS, computer science; ’98, MS, computer science) and Jolene Welborn (’99, BS, biology) were married on May 20, 2006 in Tao, NM. Many former Techies attended the wedding which greatly pleased the bride and groom. Cort is still working with FSL Labs in Socorro, and Jolene currently teaches math for Magdalena Middle/High School. Jolene was recently accepted in a teacher exchange program with San Pedro de Atacama in Chile. The couple plans to swap a future Techie or two in the next few years.

2000s

Mason Hatchton (’00, BS, engineering mechanics) writes, “Our family has moved to California recently for me to take a design engineer position with Sealed Composites, a company building a private manned space tourism program. In 2004, this company was the first to send a man into space under a privately funded contract, which won them the Ansai Xpirtie. Since, they have begun development of the second level of spacecraft – the building of a spaceschip capable of carrying up to eight people into space. I am working on various portions of the flight control systems and am very excited to be a part of a history-making program.

“My family and I have been living in Albuquerque since. My daughter, Ella, is now three. My wife, Cara, will begin working with an art project by Los Alamos National Laboratory.

Raven Alexis Gory ('06, BS, petr. engg.; ’06, MS, eng. mgt.) and Samuel Alan Gaswick ('06, BS, mechanical eng.) were married on March 17, 2006, at the Little Church of the West in Las Vegas, NV. They took a trip to Switzerland, Norway, to watch polar bears. They are making their home in Parker, CO. Raven is an engineer at Exxon Oil and Gas (USA) in Denver. Samuel is an associate engineer at Teamb's Associates Engineering Specialists, Inc., in Englewood, CO.

Benjamin Russ Ewing ('03, BS, materials eng.) married Jean Elizabeth Eiesler on June 30, 2006 in Fort Wayne, IN. Jean is a 2003 graduate of the University of Saint Francis with a degree in psychology and is currently working on a master's degree in counseling at the same university. Benjamin is employed at Los Alamos National Laboratory.

Tech Alumni Author Book on WorldTrek

Tech alumni Russ and Carla Fisher had the trip of a lifetime and lived to write about it.

The Fisher’s book, WorldTrek: A Family Odyssey, came out of a one-year trip around the world with their two daughters, Andrea and Lesley, aged 12 and 13 at the trip’s start. The trip was both an educational experience and a flat-out adventure.

From Greece to the Great Wall, from the Pyramids to Polynesia, from Stockholm to Sydney, the family circled the globe, learning geography, geopolitics, languages, history, customs, and a lot about each other. Traveling by plane, train, bus, boat, foot, and bicycle, they sampled new foods, talked to new people, and experienced new cultures.

Russ (’72, BS, geology; ’79, MS, geochemistry) and Carla (formerly Houston) (’73, BS, biology) had long intended to take a major trip with their daughters; and, in early 2001, they decided to put their regular lives on hold and take the plunge.

Russ writes, “As populations expand and resources seem to contract, conflicts sometimes arise from a lack of understanding of other people’s frames of reference. Geologists often are forced to confront those issues in ways many other professionals are not. There are also things that a person can’t learn in school. A major trip would give Carla and me the opportunity to genuinely participate in our daughters’ education, even if it was only for a year.”

By the end of the trip, he wrote, “Over the course of a year in close proximity, we had grown together in ways we would only begin to understand as time passed.”

The book includes tips on how to plan and budget for such a trip, as well as suggestions on home schooling while traveling, and how to maintain an even keel when traveling with teenagers.


Kathly Hedges

Alumni Website has New Look

For the latest information on fellow alumni, alumni events, and news of interest, check the New Mexico Tech Alumni Association’s new website (www.nmt.edu/alum-fi/index.htm).

Thanks to Kathleen Hedges and Lorenzo Maes (’05, Information Technology), the site has a new look that allows us to keep information more current, and helps alumni navigate more smoothly.

Now you can blog with fellow alumni thanks to Don McKeavy (’60, Chemistry). Get in touch via the blog and let people know you’ll be at 49ers Weekend and Golden (classes of 1957 and earlier) and Silver (classes of 1972-1982) reunions, October 18-21. You can access the blog at http://mysite.verizon.net/mckelvey7/.

Send your news and other suggestions for the website or Alumni Association to Carol Lynn Tiegs at ctiegs@admin.nmt.edu.
NEW MEXICO TECH ALUMNI PLAY VALUABLE ROLES AS ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

They've already walked the walk and talked the talk as students at New Mexico Tech. Now they're working professionals in their chosen fields.

Who better, then, to advise the students who follow in their footsteps, than alumni serving as members of department, corporate, or industrial advisory boards.

"The corporate advisory board is a valuable component to the Technical Communication program," said Dr. Julie Ford, assistant professor of Tech's Technical Communication (TC) program.

"Our board members are talented professionals who are knowledgeable in the latest trends in the field," said Ford. "They enthusiastically share this knowledge with faculty and students through annual visits to campus, as well as with involvement in our program's internship class and senior seminar and senior thesis courses."

For Tech alumni, it's all about giving back.

"I remembered how helpful the board members were to me when I was a student, and I was honored to be asked to serve in that capacity for other students," said Rebecca (Ideus) Taylor, one of two TC graduates in May 1999.

"We're here to provide an industry perspective to the students and faculty," said Becca, product marketing manager for Hewlett-Packard. "This means we help the students think about how they apply their education and the skills they've learned to the professional world."

"For the program itself, we offer insight into the state of our profession and whether the curriculum is keeping up with it," Becca said. "Meeting to do all of this annually actually bolsters the school's accreditation renewals."

And the students, faculty, and school aren't the only ones who benefit from the relationship.

"I feel like receiving just as much, if not more, than I give," she said. "Working on the board allows me to extend my own perspective. Sometimes, because the workday is so crazy busy, we business people get isolated from the world around us."

Matt Osiecki (B.S. '90) has served on the TC corporate board for four years. After graduation, he joined Qwest Communications in Denver as an information developer.

For Osiecki, the best part of being a board member is working with students.

"I enjoy helping students communicate clearly and concisely, and using that knowledge to demonstrate their skills and experience through resumes, portfolios, and interviews," he said.

He joined the board to help ensure that TC students are receiving the training to benefit them when they reach the workplace. "Qwest also benefits by learning about the latest developments in technical communication," he said.

Charlie Robino earned bachelor's and master's degrees (80, '82) in Materials and Metallurgical Engineering at Tech, and now works for Sandia National Laboratories in the Joining and Casting department. He serves on the Materials and Metallurgical Engineering advisory board at New Mexico Tech.

"Our job is to help the department maintain connections with what essentially amounts to our customers," said Robino. Members also keep departments informed about changing trends, and are a source for independent feedback when considering changes in the curriculum or to department policies, he said.

Dr. Douglas J. Taylor, a senior scientist/department manager with TPL, Inc. in Albuquerque, serves on the Materials and Metallurgical Engineering advisory board with Robino.

"I spent six years in graduate school after New Mexico Tech and have been working in my profession for 12 years," said Taylor. "The most valuable service that I can offer is this experience, and what is needed to make the transition to either graduate school or industry; he said.

"By helping the faculty (develop) undergraduate students, the students can be better prepared for their futures."

"I like to stay in touch with New Mexico Tech and my department, and serving on the advisory board is a great way to do this," he said.

Martin Schlapa is the manager of Air Quality Services with Kleinfelder West, Inc. in Albuquerque, and has served on the advisory board of the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department since its inception in 2002.

He earned both his B.S. and M.S. degrees in Environmental Engineering ('99, '00) from New Mexico Tech.

"I very much enjoy keeping in touch with Dr. Mark Cal (department chair), and through him get introduced to his students, who may become potential new hires at Kleinfelder, or have them intern with us," Schlapa said.

"Sometimes I act as a liaison between students and the professional world if they have specific questions," he said.

For Fatma Arzum Simsek-Ege, the opportunity to mentor students is tantamount. "Anything that I can do to help them makes me happy," said Simsek-Ege, who received her Ph.D. from New Mexico Tech in December of 2010 in Materials Engineering, and is now with Intel. She has served on the department's advisory board for six years.

She agreed to serve on the Materials Department's advisory board "...because I want other good students like me to be interested in New Mexico Tech, because I believe it has a lot to offer."

"I know the industry, I know what industry expects from recent graduates," she said. "I also know the challenges or difficulties that New Mexico Tech students might be going through, because I was there."

Among the newest members of the advisory boards on campus is Jesse Piotrowicz, who was among the 33 graduates to receive a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering last May.

He now works for Applied Technology Associates.

"I found it hugely rewarding to help improve the undergraduate experience for myself and my fellow mechanical engineering students at Tech," said Piotrowicz.

As a freshly minted graduate, he brings to the board the perspective of someone just making the transition from the classroom to the workplace. "I'm right in the thick of it," he said.

Another young member of the Mechanical Engineering board is Sandia Labs employee Korrie Collins (B.S. '06).

Collins said that as a recent graduate, she still feels a strong connection to Tech and its students, and understands their issues and concerns.

"And as a new employee, I'm able to communicate to the department what companies such as mine expect from recent graduates, and what areas the department can improve in to increase the employability of its students"

As the student representative to department faculty, Collins said she enjoyed improving communication between students and faculty, and giving students a voice.

"So, what I enjoy most about being an advisory board member is being able to continue that relationship and help improve the department in any way I can," she said.

Valerie Kimble

William H. Marble Receives Distinguished Alumnus Award from President López

President Daniel H. López took the opportunity, during the President's Club Banquet on April 28, to thank William H. "Bill" Marble ('73, BS, petroleum engineering) for his service to New Mexico Tech and present him with the Club's Alumnus Award.

After graduating from Tech, Bill went on to distinguish himself in a long and productive career in petroleum engineering. He rose to become vice president of Business Development at Hallwood Energy Corporation and later started his own successful petroleum company.

Bill has been a continuous supporter of New Mexico Tech. Most recently, he and his wife, Kate, established the W. H. Marble Scholarship Endowment, which benefits petroleum engineering students from out-of-state.

New Mexico Tech is grateful to Bill and Kate Marble and other forward-thinking and generous individuals who enable future generations of students to pursue promising careers.

801 Leroy Place Socorro, NM 87801 Address Service Requested

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