As I end my tenure as Alumni Association president I look back at the effort on the part all the NMTAA board members over the last two years with a great sense of accomplishment. Forming a lasting national board has been an arduous, but extremely gratifying task. Over the course of the next year the NMTAA, in conjunction with the Office for Advancement, will implement a one-year plan that will be the path to create a financially stable and mutually beneficial Alumni Association, which will create a lifelong conduit for graduates and friends to remain in touch. By creating a lasting endowment, the Association will have the resources to actively manage and fund current and future projects at the university. For New Mexico Tech’s complete strategic plan, log on to www.nmt.edu/about/pres/pdf/StratPlan2006.pdf.

Each year brings new challenges for the Alumni Association and the Office for Advancement. Increasing alumni interest in the institution through local chapter meetings is one of the best ways to talk to a representative of the school. The continued success of the NMTAA is directly dependent on the strength of the network of chapters. Please go to the Association’s Web page at www.nmt.edu/alum_fr for announcements and activities in your area. If traveling to chapter meetings isn’t practical, consider starting a chapter in your area. The Advancement Office at Tech is a valuable resource for starting new chapters.

The NMTAA has a responsibility to the current and future students in transitioning from academia to the working world. We should all be proud of our school and do our best to build the reputation of our institution and its graduates. Please join with me in continuing the growth of the alumni association and support Brett Wendt as he begins his tenure as the President of the NMTAA.

Lastly I would like to give thanks to the Office for Advancement team of Cheryl Pulaski, and especially Carol Lynn Tieg, for her endless support over the last two years. Without her tireless effort and attention to detail we would still be at the crossroads of the NMTAA.

Geza L. Keller, President
8-15-08

FROM THE PRESIDENT

CAMPAIGN UNDERWAY FOR DR. DAVID NORMAN ENDOWMENT

Family and friends of Dr. David Norman have established the Dr. David Norman Endowed Faculty Development Program in Economic Geology at New Mexico Tech.

Dave, a professor of geochemistry at Tech, passed away in May while leading a trip with five graduate students in Ghana. He was recognized internationally as an expert in the economics of mineral deposits, specifically gold, and fluid inclusions.

“The untimely death of Dave Norman is a dear loss not only to his family and to New Mexico Tech, but also to industry, as his teachings an mentoring were critical to fostering well-trained economic geologists,” wrote Dave’s first graduate student, Borden Parnam, ’77, 80.

Borden has committed to match all contributions to the Dr. David Norman Endowment at 1:1 up to $50,000.

“Dave Norman is eminently worthy of having an endowed chair established in his name, wrote Brian Hoad, executive director, Society of Economic Geologists. “His academic record speaks for itself – his research related to the genesis or ore deposits is both prolific and innovative, and he has an outstanding reputation as a dedicated an inspiring teacher and educator.”

Contributions to the endowment may be sent to the Office for Advancement, New Mexico Tech, 801 Leroy Pl., Socorro, NM 87801. Checks should be made payable to New Mexico Tech, with “Dr. Norman Endowment” written in the memo line.

Gifts of stock are also welcome. For information, contact Carol Lynn Tieg at 575-835-5292 or ctiegs@admin.nmt.edu.

WHAT’S NEW AND WHAT’S NOT, IN SOCORRO AND NEW MEXICO TECH

Imagine what Socorro and the then-New Mexico School of Mines were like in the early days of the school with its single, territorial-style building and the dirt roads leading to it. Amenities were few.

The years brought welcome changes to the college and the town – there have even been changes since you were a student here.

The New Mexico Tech campus continues to bloom with flora and the not-so-flora, including a new campus sign at the corner of Leroy and Campus Drive, and plans for a Children’s Center south of Macey Center.

Currently under construction is a new addition to the Kelly Building, home to the Petroleum Recovery Research Center. The project began with crews tearing up the parking lot to make way for a 1,200-square-foot, two-story building that will house lab space, offices and conference areas.

Meanwhile, the original Jones Hall is undergoing a major mechanical and electrical upgrade; while a new laboratory building is planned for the area west of the Gold Building. The structure initially will provide lab space for the civil engineering program; and, in the future, for chemical engineering and mechanical engineering students.

The big news for you, um, earlier alumni is the return of the Desert Maiden sandstone statue. She is back in front of Workman Center and just north of the Fidel Center, freshly refurbished and surrounded by the aforementioned flora.

And in Socorro, John Brooks Supermarket has expanded and now features a nice array of gourmet and earth-friendly products.

Socorro Springs Brewery and Restaurant, owned by Tech alumni Mac (’95, 98) and Molley (’97) Heyndick, moved into its own custom-designed building on California Street several years ago.

A new restaurant, Stage Door Grill, is thriving at the brewery’s old home on the Plaza. The Stage Door features live music weekly and a menu featuring Cajun food, pasta and steak.

The McDonald’s that opened in 1982 is closed for demolition and new construction, and a Heart Healthy Sandwiches shop opened where Subway used to be. KFC, a longtime Socorro standby, has closed its doors, apparently for good. But Tina’s has reincarnated as Diamondback Restaurant at the original Tina’s location.

The former Vagabond Motel underwent a major upgrade and is now a Howard Johnson’s. The original Holiday Inn Express is now a Best Western, while a new Holiday Inn was built next door. A Comfort Inn is around the corner from a newly refurbished K-Bob’s restaurant on NW Frontage Road. And the former San Miguel Inn is now a Rodeway Inn.

And the Capitol Bar. Yes, the Cap is still alive and well.
TWENTY YEARS LATER, AND I STILL HAVE MY TECH CAT...

Robert E. Maas, 89, 91

Although I graduated almost 20 years ago and now live in Austin, Texas, New Mexico Tech is still with me in many ways. The solid technical foundation the school gave me has served me well in graduate school and my career. The fond memories of friends and follies from those years still follow my thoughts. A beautiful young lady from Tech – Wendy Weiss, ’90 – is now my bride. And my mouth still yearns and burns for green or red, a shipping arrangement via the in-laws from the fertile Socorro-area chile fields every fall.

But the most surprising thing I still have with me from my New Mexico Tech days so many years ago is my cat.

After my freshman year in the dorms, my roommate and I moved off campus into the east side of a duplex on Church Street. This was in 1986. Being partial to cats, I noticed a mama cat up the street herding a clutch of kittens. A year later, I moved into a quaint one-bedroom house up that street, and there was that mama cat with another herd of kittens. I bought cat food to feed the area strays, including the mama cat, who I started unofficially calling “Mom”.

After a while, my landlord, who lived next door and was not fond of cats, gave me notice that I would be evicted by the end of the month if I didn’t shed the three cats I was feeding on my front porch. I quickly found homes for two of the three, but the last one, Mom, was going to be a challenge: she was ready-to-pop pregnant. Fortunately, my girlfriend’s mom (now mother-in-law) had a friend south of town with a mouse-infested barn and no cats. “Bring Mom down!” said the friend of my future mother-in-law.

At the end of the month, as I walked next door to pay my rent and inform the landlord the cats were gone, Mom stepped out from under the neighbor’s car. Her eyes were glassy, she wobbled like a Sunday drunk, and she still carried her baggage of babies. She had walked 13 miles through the desert, crossed a four-lane interstate highway, and hobbled halfway across town, just to be with me. And she is still with me today, more than 20 years later.

Mom is definitely a New Mexican cat. She loves blazing hot weather, sand, and the smell of green chile. Last fall, she was inseparable from the delivered bag of chile, her face buried deep in the burlap to better breathe the green scent.

In cat years, Mom is more than 100 years old, but she still looks quite fine, thank you. How much longer will she live? The Guinness Book of World records lists Crème Puff, an Austinite, having lived to 38 years and 3 days. Another Austin cat, Granpa, reached 34 years old.

Crème Puff, an Austinite, having lived to 38 years and 3 days. Another Austin cat, Granpa, reached 34 years old. What do you see as the principal purposes of an alumni association?

By Thomas Guengerich

Alumna Nelia Dunbar is uncovering ancient secrets about global climate by studying the chemical composition of volcanic ash in the West Antarctic Ice Sheet.

Dunbar (86, MS, geology; 89, Ph.D., geochemistry), a lab director at New Mexico Tech’s Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources, presented her findings at an Antarctic Earth Science meeting in Santa Barbara in August 2007, and again at a Geochemical Society meeting in Vancouver in early July 2008. Along with fellow researchers at New Mexico Tech and the University of Maine, Dunbar is using her laboratory sleuthing skills to find the record of volcanic eruptions in ice that preserves records of fluctuations in global temperatures as far back as 100,000 years ago.

One of Dunbar’s collaborators is her fellow alumnus and husband, Bill McIntosh (90, Ph.D., geology).

From November 2007 to January 2008 — that’s summer in Antarctica — an army of scientists, engineers, technicians and students extracted a cylinder of ice from the 11,000-foot-thick ice sheet. The ice core is like a living record of precipitation, volcanic eruptions, greenhouse gases and other naturally-occurring atmospheric particles.

Dunbar’s specialty is volcanology. She is using her knowledge of volcanic activity and processes and her laboratory acumen to help the nation’s community of geologists and geophysicists deduce a broad picture of Earth’s climatic movements over the eons.


SELF-PROCLAIMED PRE-CAMBRIAN ALUMNI CHECK IN

Larry Nagel, ’38 and Hart Gleason, ’39 celebrated a mini-reunion with their wives at Hart’s mountain home near Telluride, Co. The pair spent four August days reminiscing about New Mexico Tech and the friends made there, and checking in by phone with Jack Duvaux, ’41.

Larry and his wife joy stopped to visit the New Mexico Tech campus and alumni office on their way home from Colorado to Texas. They hope to be back for 49ers.

Gold Pan Editorial Staff

Editors in Chief:
Cheryl Pulaski (cpulaski@admin.nmt.edu)
Carol Lynn Tiegs (ctiegs@admin.nmt.edu)

Contributing Editors:
Kathleen Hedges (khedges@admin.nmt.edu)
Valerie Kimble (vkimble@admin.nmt.edu)

Copy Editor:
Thom Guengerich (tguengerich@admin.nmt.edu)

Graphic Designer:
Edie Steinhoff (einsteinhoff@admin.nmt.edu)

MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD

Input sought on Alumni Association Strategic Plan

The New Mexico Tech Alumni Association Board of Directors is undertaking a strategic plan process to determine how the association can best serve alumni and the university. The end result will be a five-year strategic plan setting specific goals and objectives that will direct board activity on your behalf.

Your input is critical! The following survey is the first step in a process that will include targeted telephone calls and focus group meetings.

Please take time to complete the survey below and return it to Carol Lynn Tiegs at Office for Advancement, New Mexico Tech, 801 Leroy Pl., Socorro, NM 87801 by July 31, 2008.

NEW MEXICO TECH ALUMNI ASSOCIATION STRATEGIC PLAN QUESTIONNAIRE

What would you like to get from your New Mexico Tech Alumni Association?

In what ways would you like to contribute/be of service to the New Mexico Tech Alumni Association?

As a Tech alum, what two or three things would you like to get from New Mexico Tech?

In what ways would you like to contribute/be of service to New Mexico Tech?

New Mexico Tech has chapters in Albuquerque, Dallas, Houston, Santa Fe/Los Alamos and Colorado. If you live in these areas:

1. Have you attended a chapter event?  □ Yes □ No
2. What activities would you like the chapter to undertake?

What type of alumni activities would you like to see in your area?

If you also graduated from another university, what is their Alumni Association doing that you wish Tech would do for you?

What do you see as the principal purposes of an alumni association?

What else would you like to tell us?
**People You Know**

**James (Larry) Ivie** (BS, petr. engr., 72), writes, “My family and I are currently living in the Lafayette, Louisiana. I am the Gulf Coast region engineer for BJ Services. I am the technical cementing engineer for land drilling for South Texas and southern Louisiana. I am also the Gulf Coast region mentor for engineers who graduated from college and trained them for their new field engineering jobs for BJ Services. I have trained domestic and international engineers since 1996. I assist BJ Services in recruiting engineering students from the Louisiana universities. I really enjoy teaching and preparing engineers for their future in the oil industry.”

**Nancy C Bilderbeck** (BS, biology, 76) and **Mitch Bilderbeck** (BS, petroleum engr., ’77) have resided for the last quarter of a century in England. They are now at home in London. Mitch is an international energy consultant working for RPS. His work takes him around the globe, working for individuals as well as governments. Nancy is a science teacher, specializing in children from 7 to 12 years old. In 2005, she was named Science Teacher of the Year by the Woodford School District. She has also been active in government initiatives and national organizations which evaluate and promote science teaching. In addition, Nancy makes presentations at conferences, both national and regional in the U.K. Amy, their elder daughter, is completing her Ph.D. in psychology and psychiatry at Oxford University. Ray, their son, is continuing his education at Harvard Law School following his graduation from Princeton University. Mitch and Nancy return to Socorro each spring to visit with their kids at home. My family lived in Alaska for many years supervising dewatering operations at iron ore mines in Outback Australia. I now live in Seattle and work for a small consulting company, Landau Associates. I am hoping to enter the Ironman Lake Placid race in July 2008.”

**Deborah Bullock** (BS, biology, 82) reports, “I have been active at school and community level since I was 10 while my family lived in Alaska. I now live in Seattle and work for a small consulting company, Landau Associates. I am hoping to enter the Ironman Lake Placid race in July 2008.”

**Jennifer D. Austin,** (BS, biology, 91) and **Michelle Marquez (BS, biology, 00)** write, “My daughter, Jacqui Weeks, is 26 and is getting records wonderful musicians. Check it out online at www.smad.org.”

**B. O. Armijo-Pemble** (BS, chemical engr., 94) writes, “After working as an aquatic biologist for the Bureau of Reclamation for the past 17 years, I have accepted a contractor position at the Louisiana State University. I will be working with the Bonniverse Power Administration in Portland, Ore. I can be reached at amontano@yahoo.com.”

**Brandon Pemble** (BS, engineering mechanics, 96) and his wife **Rosa B. Armiyo-Pemble** (BS, technical communication, 97) announce the arrival of their daughter Jastin Abril Malaya, born June 20, 2007, weighing in at a very healthy 4 lbs., 9 oz. They add, “Jastin joins her brother, Korbyn, 6, who is thrilled to have a sister. Brandon is a mechanical engineer with Moog in Albuquerque. Rosa runs several businesses from home and has currently been hired by New Mexico Tech to teach Jazzercise classes. For more on the Pemble family check out our web site at members.aol.com/RosBran.”

**2000s**

**Laura Jean Wilcox** (MS, hydrology, 04) writes, “I returned to the United States in November 2007 after two years supervising dewatering operations at iron ore mines in Outback Australia. I now live in Seattle and work for a small consulting company, Landau Associates. I am hoping to enter the Ironman Lake Placid race in July 2008.”

**Deb Doyle** (B.S., mech. engr., ’07) received the Civilian Quarterly Award from the Air Force Research Labs (AFRL). Deb has been developing structural health monitoring techniques and architectures for rapid satellite checkout. He has obtained $45,000 in Air Force Office of Scientific Research funding to continue research in non-linear joint physics.

Deb has established test facilities at AFRL and New Mexico Tech. He will graduate with his master’s degree in mechanical engineering (computer engineering) in December 2008 after a year-and-a-half of full-time study at Tech and full-time employment at the AFRL. During this time he published four journal articles, presented at various conferences and is currently working on an article for the *American Journal of the Royal Astronomical Society*. Work. Her company is now the feature of a new story on KIDK, Idaho Falls, for being a female-owned company in a traditionally male field. North Winds boasts revenue of $5 million a year, with 22 offices and over 300 employees. Chris Mikell (MS, hydrology, 86) writes, “I’m a consulting groundwater hydrologist, and a co-owner of Bowen Collins & Assoc. We’re a 40 person civil/ environmental engineering company in Draper, Utah, specializing in water, wastewater, stormwater, groundwater, environmental and air quality. I’d love to hear from anyone in a related career.”

**Dr. Vannetta R. Perry** (BS, chemistry, 86) is one of 160 educators selected from a nationwide pool as a participant in the Japan Fulbright Memorial Fund (JFMF) Educator Program. The program allows distinguished primary and secondary school educators from the U.S. to travel to Japan for three weeks to promote greater intercultural understanding between the two nations. Perry will visit Japan in October, when she will meet teachers and stay in a Japanese home. Perry lives in San Antonio, N.M., and is associate superintendent of Socorro Consolidated Schools.

**Dr. Eileen Comstuck** (BS, biology, 88) was named “Woman of the Year” by the Socorro Chamber of Commerce. Comstuck, who works as an emergency room physician at the Socorro General Hospital, has been active in community service. She directs the Socorro Community Band and a concert band at New Mexico Tech; has directed several spring musicals at the college; and is active in Rotary projects to bring improved medical equipment to Guatemala. She is married to Warren Marts (BS, computer science, 90), who is also active in Socorro.

**José Salazar** (BS, mat. engr., ’00; MS, IT, ’04) and **Charlotte Salaraz** (BS, env. engr., ’02; MS, hydrology, ’04) report that their son, also named José, is recovering from a cougar attack in the Sandia Mountains on May 17. The attack was the subject of extensive media attention in Albuquerque.

**Dr. Luis Velarde** (MS, physics, ’00) reports that a University of California’s Presidential Postdoctoral Fellowship in Mathematics, Engineering, and Physical Sciences. Only four such fellowships were awarded this year. Velarde also received his Ph.D. in chemistry from the University of Arizona on May 17, 2008. He will use the fellowship to pursue postdoctoral research in the U.S. and is a postdoctoral fellow at the University of California in Santa Barbara.

**Mindy Gilbert-Treybal** (BS, biology, 02) and **Louie Treybal** graduated from Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences in May 2007. They are currently serving as a residency in family medicine in Pueblo, Colo., and hope to come back to Socorro to practice medicine in the future.

**Maria (Martinez) Linford** (BS, physics, ’03) and her Tech sweetheart Justin Linford (BS, physics, ’03) were married on Sept. 7, 2007 in Albuquerque. The couple live in Albuquerque.

**Amy Lueck** (BS, psychology, ’04) is engaged to Robert Kellahin of Santa Fe. Both are employed as cytogenetists at Genzyme Genetics of Santa Fe.

**Nathan Goulding** (BS, computer science, ’07; BS, electrical engineering, ’07) is in a Ph.D. program in computer engineering at the University of California at San Diego. He writes, “San Diego is fantastic, but I still miss NM.”

**James H. Brown Jr.,** passed away July 8, 2007, in Tucson, Ariz. He was 90.

**Richard W. Baxter, Jr.** passed away on Feb. 3, 2007, after a courageous battle with cancer. He was born in Big Spring, Texas, on March 1, 1954. He grew up in Socorro, N.M., where he attended New Mexico Tech, and earned his B.S. in physics in 1977, a bachelor’s in computer science in 1981, and a master’s in computer science in 1985. He moved to San Jose, Calif., in 1987 and has worked for Lockheed Martin since 1988. He married Laurie on April 24, 2002, in San Diego, Calif. They have two children, Isabella and Anthony.

**Jennifer D. Austin,** a 2005 graduate of New Mexico Tech with a bachelor’s in biology, passed away in April 2008. She was living in Chandler, Ariz.

**James H. Brown Jr.**

**Cecil Y. Coffey,** a 1942 graduate of New Mexico School of Mines in geological engineering, passed away Dec. 28, 2007, in Tucson, Ariz. He was 90.
CHAPTER NEWS

Members of the Colorado Alumni Chapter met on July 30 with Mike Kloeppel, director, and Marcelle England, assistant director, from the Office for Admission to learn more about how to effectively recruit students for New Mexico Tech.

Mike and Marcelle will be presenting next for the Dallas Chapter, and are happy to attend other chapter meetings.

And on August 9, the Colorado Chapter met in Fort Collins at the New Belgium Brewery.

The Colorado Chapter's next outing will be all the way to Socorro for 49ers weekend. Members are planning to caravan. For information contact Russ Erbes at rerbes@kleinfelder.com.

The Santa Fe/Los Alamos Chapter held a party on August 2 at the home of Charlie ('74) and Diane Goodman. John Dowdle ('60) assumed the chapter presidency, assisted by a strong steering committee. Plans call for attending 49ers as a group, scheduling training for student recruitment, and an event in Los Alamos. For information, contact John at dowdle_john@bah.com.

UPCOMING ALUMNI EVENTS

• Dallas-Area Training for Tech Student Recruiting
  Thursday, August 28, 7 p.m.
  Location: home of Lisa Noell, 524 Austin Creek Dr. in Grapevine. To RSVP and get directions contact Lisa at lisa.noell@nmt.edu or 817-723-2753. Mike Kloeppel, director of Admission for New Mexico Tech will provide training in how to recruit students to Tech. If you can’t make it but are interested in helping recruit students to Tech, let Lisa know as well. If other chapters would like to hold recruiting training, please contact Carol Lynn Tieg, Assistant Director for Advancement, 575-835-5292.

• Albuquerque Chapter Reception and Tour
  Thursday, August 28, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
  ABBA Center for Excellence, 725 A-B 6th Street
  Thanks to our host, Matthew Silva, ’75, ’84.
  RSVP to Carol Lynn Tieg at ctiegs@admin.nmt.edu or 575-835-5292.

• Denver-area Alumni Event
  Tuesday, September 23, 2008, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.
  In connection with Society of Petroleum Engineers annual ACTE at the Hyatt Hotel in downtown Denver.

• Houston-area alumni event
  Wednesday, October 8, 2008
  In connection with Geological Association of American annual conference, details TBD.

TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editors,

I am writing to comment on the article “Jack Kruppenbach Receives Alumni Award”, which was printed in the Summer 2008 issue of Gold Pan. I would like to say that I am flattered by the many accolades printed about me; however, in all of my endeavors, I have had many partners and co-founders. Without their partnerships, the initiatives I became involved with would not have been possible. I also want to note that my wife Bebe and daughters Susan, Becky, and Polly and I had a wonderful time at the President’s Club banquet and met many old and new friends.

Thank you for a wonderful article. I just want to “give credit where credit is due”.

I always enjoy reading the Gold Pan.

Sincerely,
Jack Kruppenbach (’51)