Skeen Library Dedicated
Tech alumni who return to visit campus will find a new name on the New Mexico Tech Library. It is now the Joseph R. Skeen Library, named after the longtime congressman, who is retiring this year. Skeen plans to donate his congressional papers to be housed in the library.

At a dedication ceremony on August 19, President Daniel H. López paid homage to Skeen as “one of New Mexico’s most distinguished statesmen” and “an influential national leader as the representative for New Mexico’s Second Congressional District for the past 22 years.”

Skeen is one of only three people in history who were elected to a seat in Congress on the basis of a write-in campaign. He has most recently been chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on the Interior. Among those gathered to honor him were his Congressional colleagues Jerry Lewis of California and William D. Lowery, a retired congressman, also from California.

MRO Unveiled
On August 20, officials from an international university research consortium headed by New Mexico Tech convened atop South Baldy in the Magdalena Mountains to participate in an unveiling ceremony for the Magdalena Ridge Observatory (MRO).

The mountaintop ceremony included a keynote address by U.S. Senator Pete Domenici (R-N.M.) and the unveiling of a table-top model of the MRO. Additional members of the research consortium which will run the observatory are the University of Cambridge (England), New Mexico State University, New Mexico Highlands University, and the University of Puerto Rico, as well as Los Alamos National Laboratory.

The MRO, slated to open in 2007, will be a premier, state-of-the-art astronomical research facility. At an elevation of almost 10,700 feet, the MRO will be the fourth highest observatory in the world.
NM Tech Capital Campaign off to a Strong Start
by George Zamora

A major-gifts fundraising campaign at New Mexico Tech has hit its stride after entering a “public phase” this year and is well on its way to fulfilling the university’s goal of raising $5 million in private donations.

After having started with a “silent phase” over a year ago, New Mexico Tech’s “Commitment to Excellence” campaign has now garnered slightly more than $4 million in cash, gifts, and pledges, reports Steve Bobinsky, director of both the New Mexico Tech Advancement Office and Tech’s fundraising campaign.

“Although our base goal is $5 million, our challenge goal is $8 million, so we’ve still got a long way to go before we wrap up our campaign in April 2003,” Bobinsky says.

The objectives of New Mexico Tech’s Commitment to Excellence campaign are to increase faculty endowments; strengthen instructional laboratory support; boost student scholarships and fellowships; improve online library resources; and expand the university’s Etscorn Campus Observatory.

“Although this is a state-supported research university, less than 30 percent of New Mexico Tech’s operating budget comes from state sources,” says Tech President Daniel H. López. “It is left up to the university itself, its students, its alumni, and all its other supporters to make up the rest.”

“While the Commitment to Excellence campaign’s primary focus is on obtaining additional financial resources, another important component of the campaign is education — specifically educating everyone on campus, as well as Tech alumni, on the mutual benefits that are derived from planned giving,” says Bobinsky.

“New Mexico Tech’s renowned academic programs, research facilities, and scholastic reputation are the direct results of past support from alumni, parents, private foundations, state and federal funding, and friends and supporters of the university,” Bobinsky relates.

“We’re also extending our gratitude to all these past supporters — who are too numerous to name — by acknowledging their special support as we look forward to continuing New Mexico Tech’s ongoing legacy of commitment to excellence,” he adds.

Members of the board of the Capital Campaign are honorary co-chairs Bill and Jean Macey; chair, Dr. Michael Kelly; and executive leadership team, Dr. Laurence H. Lattman, Denby Auble, Don and Rosie Tripp, and Holm Bursum III.

Tech alumni and friends interested in participating in the Capital Campaign should contact Steve Bobinsky, Director of Advancement, 505-835-5475 or sbobinsky@admin.nmt.edu.

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[Note: If you gave a gift after June 30, 2002, it will be acknowledged in next year's list.]

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People You Know

The following notices were received from April to mid-October 2002. If you sent in a notice after that, it should appear in a future issue.

1960s

Dr. Mary Ann (Blymn) Seagraves (61, BS, math) is now affiliated with Theresa L. Seagraves & Associates, a management consulting firm specializing in workplace productivity analyses and return-on-investment (ROI) studies for training and development. This Parker, Colo.-based company has submitted a patent application for an innovative method for planning, tracking, and driving to an ROI goal for training courses or programs. This process can be used for a wide variety of training. TLSA also shows training and human resource managers how to communicate their value in financial and "Chief Executive Officer" terms. Her email address is n5kbe@juno.com.

Dr. Leonard Gray (64, BS, chemistry) has been awarded the Glenn T. Seaborg Actinide Separations Award for his outstanding accomplishments and meritorious achievement in actinide element separations science. Gray is a chemist at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. During Gray’s 33-year career, working at the Savannah River Plant, Savannah River Laboratory, and Livermore National Lab, he has developed processes for the recovery and purification of uranium, neptunium, plutonium, americium, and curium from special reactor targets and fuels that had been designated by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) as “non-processable and hard-to-recover scrap and residues.”

When Gray was presented with the award, he used the occasion to propose from the podium, on bended knee, to his high school sweetheart, Sandra Purdom Byrd, widow of Jack Byrd of Perry, Florida. Ms. Byrd immediately accepted. They were married on August 10 in Perry, Fla.

Gray holds master's degree in chemistry from Texas Technological College and a doctorate in inorganic chemistry from the University of South Carolina.

Gray has two children, a son, Leonard LeVerne Gray of Livermore, Calif. and a daughter, Andrea Gray Kidd of Temecula, Calif. His daughter has three children, a daughter, Brittney, 10, a son, Dylan, 5, and a daughter, Sydney, born May 1, 2002. Gray’s wife of 38.5 years, the former Jeanette Joyce of Jacksonville, Fla., died last year.

1970s

Alberto Aguirre (70, BS, metallurgical engr.) dropped by the Alumni Office on Aug. 1 and reminisced with us. He put himself through Tech by working for the Socorro Fire Department, which paid him $1.50 an hour for fighting fires and allowed him to live in the firehouse. He remembered the kindness of many people in Socorro, especially fire chiefs John Casey, Ernest Trujillo, and Phil Baca, and at Tech, President Stirling Colgate, Prof. Geoffrey Purcell, and Prof. Gerardo Gross.

Aguirre has worked for Boeing, McDonnell-Douglas, General Dynamics, and most recently, for Lockheed-Martin. He and his wife live in Littleton, Colo., where he expects to retire soon.

Randall J. Johnson (72, BS, biology) writes, “After Tech, I spent a brief time managing medical claims offices in Albuquerque and Santa Fe. I’ve now been with the Westinghouse Electric Company for about 26 years. I currently live in Columbia, S.C., with my wife of 20 years, Maribeth, and son Evan, 17. We were lucky enough to have adopted Evan from Thailand 11 years ago.

“Westinghouse has kept me on the move (Colorado, Texas, New York, Pennsylvania, California and now South Carolina). With all this moving around, I’m astounded to have been able to keep my sanity and family together. From the start, I have always been in the nuclear industry, from mining uranium in the most remote locations imaginable to servicing commercial nuclear power plants to manufacturing nuclear fuel. As a senior business analyst, I now manage activities related to the expansion of the company’s enterprise business software. Maribeth, with a BA in drama, is self-employed and a part time teacher specializing in English as a Second Language.”
Joseph J. Kmeck (72, BS, geology) writes, “I now have my own business as a consultant in oil and gas exploration.” Kmeck lives in Houston.

Dr. Donald Wenner (74, BS, chemistry) was included in the “Guide to America’s Top Surgeons” in the forthcoming 2002-2003 edition of Strathmore’s Who’s Who. Wenner, a surgeon in Roswell, was recognized in large part for his invention of a multiple instrument guide to allow a single operation for removal of the gallbladder and bile duct stones. Common bile duct exploration and stone extraction is typically a complex procedure and often involves open surgery, according to Wenner. The new instrument allows surgeons to remove the gallbladder and the bile duct stones in one minimally invasive laparoscopic procedure with less chance for complications.

Don is married to Laurie Putzig Wenner (77, BS, biology). They have four children: Andrea, 22, Donnie, 19, Nathan, 18, and Teddy, 15. Andrea graduated from Texas Christian University in 2001. Both Donnie and Nathan are current New Mexico Tech students majoring in chemistry. Teddy is a sophomore at Goddard High School. Laurie works in Dr. Wenner’s office, for lapsurgical and does volunteer work for the Roswell Public Schools, the Symphony Guild and Lend-A-Hand of Roswell.

Claudio Gonzales (76, BS, metallurgical engr.) writes, “I’ve been recycled, returning to an employer — Molycorp Inc. in Questa — after 21 years. I call myself the “100% Recycled Metallurgist.” In May 2002, my daughter, Teresita, graduated from College of Santa Fe with a bachelor of arts in a self-designed major.”

Dr. James I. “Boston” Kirkland (77, BS, geology) brought us up-to-date on his interesting activities. He writes, “I am the state paleontologist for Utah, working for the Utah Geological Survey, a rewarding job that keeps me on my toes. In addition, to keeping tabs on Utah’s paleontological resources, I have a fair amount of time to devote to research.

“I have taken research trips to China and Mongolia to help solidify some of this work. In addition to my own ongoing work in Early Cretaceous, we are doing a multiyear project to evaluate the fossil resources in the late Cretaceous Wahweap Formation on the south end of Grand Staircase - Escalante National Monument. Already, we have a couple of new, undescribed dinosaurs that are keeping the folks in my lab busy.

“Although Utah keeps me busy, I have been dabbling in New Mexico paleontology by co-discovering with Doug Wolfe (of the Mesa Southwest Museum in Mesa, Ariz.) the Moreno Hill Fauna as part of Doug’s Zuni Basin Project. This is the first Turonian (early Late Cretaceous) terrestrial skeletal fauna from anywhere in the world.

“These new New Mexico beasties were featured on the Discovery Channel’s recent ‘When Dinosaurs Roamed North America,’ as were our own smiling faces. I have been working with the Discovery Channel for a number of years and am gratified to say that they are even funding for four years my Crystal Geyser Dinosaur Quarry. I cannot say much right now, but watch for it. “My wife Sooz and daughters, Kelsey, 12, and Darcy, 8, are getting used to life here west of the red rock-curtain and help keep my feet on the ground and focused on the most important things in life.

“Check my website http://members.networld.com/kirkland/ for more of an update than anyone can stand.”

Dr. Scott Sandford (78, BS, math; 78, BS, physics) writes, “The AstroBiology Explorer (AABE) MIDEIX Mission, on which I am the principal investigator, has been selected by NASA as one of four missions for a Phase A Concept Study. The mission has been awarded $450 K to improve the level of detail in the mission and spacecraft design. Based of the Concept Reports of the four missions, NASA is expected to select two of the missions for flight. Selection will be made in early 2003 and the missions would fly in the 2007-2008 time frame. The AstroBiology Explorer is a cryogenically cooled telescope that will measure the infrared spectra of objects throughout space in order to detect and identify organic material in the
universe (see http://www.astrochem.org/abe.html.”

Richard Leturno (79, BS, petroleum engr.) has a new position as British Petroleum’s global well services manager. He relocated from Jakarta to Houston in January 2002.

1980s

Jeremy Epstein (80, BS, CS) is director of product security at webMethods, a company that makes business integration software. He recently moved into a custom-built house in northern Virginia, his first move in 16 years! Jeremy’s leisure activities include 18th century re-enactment, in which he plays the role of a 1771 tenant farmer raising tobacco. His wife is vice president of education at their synagogue, and they have three children: Sarah, Daniel, and Naomi. Jeremy drives a Volvo with the Virginia license plate NMTECH.

Catherine French-Sidoti (82, BS, mining engr.) has received her master of science degree in quality assurance from California State University — Dominguez Hills. Catherine is a ASQ Certified Quality Engineer, working for Johnson Controls, a contractor for Los Alamos National Laboratory.

Ralph Durkee (83, BS, computer science) writes “I’ve been an independent consultant in the Rochester, N.Y., area since 1996, providing network security, training and software development consulting services. I mentored a SANS GIAC security seminar in September 2002. “My wife and I have two children. Our son Daniel, born while we were at New Mexico Tech in 1981, is now 20 and in the Marines. Wow, hard to believe it’s been that long! Our daughter is 18 and recently signed up for the Air Force. Sure had a lot of great memories from the Mustard Seed Coffee House days at NMT. I’m still active in my local church. Thanking God for the days I have. My business web site is http://rd1.net.

Kathy (Sturey) Fontaine (84, BS, physics) writes, “I just graduated from The George Washington University’s Elliott School for International Affairs with an MA. My program was in the Center for Science, Technology, and Public Policy’s Space Policy Institute, headed by Dr. John Logsdon. My concentration was Space Policy, with a heavy dose of management and public administration. My current assignment at NASA Goddard Space Flight Center’s Global Change Data Center is working on a formulation project to design strategies for developing future Earth Science data systems.”

Chris Lasley (86, BS, metallurgical engr.) writes, “My wife Kelly, and our three boys Adam, 7, Ben, 3, and Sam, 2, recently moved to Flagstaff, Arizona. I am now working with W.L. Gore conducting research on shape memory alloys for medical applications.”

Carmen Silva (87, BS, technical communication) writes, “I recently completed a master of science degree in Space Systems Operations Management, School of Business and Technology, Webster University, Colorado Springs Metropolitan Campus, Colorado. For the past five years as a system engineer, I have been supporting North American Aerospace Defense Command, United States Space Command and Air Force Space Command in air, space and missile major weapon system training planning. “I am a single parent of one incredible 12-year old daughter, Jillian, and we enjoy many activities that Colorado has to offer such as skiing, hiking, biking, swimming, dancing (jazz and modern) and traveling around the state and New Mexico when we often visit family and friends in Albuquerque, Grants, Santa Fe, Los Alamos and Taos. We also enjoy traveling to other parts of the country and recently acquired our passports to travel overseas. “I would like to hear from other alumni. My email address is wildnatureheart@adelphia.net.”

Kumie Wise (87, BS, math) and her husband David Summers (88, BS, physics) welcomed Verity Mika Summers on May 11, 2002. She was 7 lbs., 5 oz. and 19 and 3/8 inches. She’s a raven-haired and steel-gray eyed version of her big sister, Myranda, age 6. The family lives in Las Cruces, where Kumie is an independent, contract bookkeeper with a number of clients in Las Cruces. Dave is a self-employed consultant whose clients include the New Mexico State University Astronomy Department and the El Paso Community College
English Department. For more details, people are welcome to drop by Dave’s homepage at: http://astro.nmsu.edu/~summers.

1990s

Felicia (Gallegos) Aguilar (90, BS, enve. engr.) was named program manager for the Environmental Restoration (ER) Program for Los Alamos Technical Associates (LATA). She was also promoted to section manager for ER and Waste Management Projects at LATA. Her husband Julio Aguilar-Chang (87, BS, geophysics; 90, MS, geophysics) has been an Oracle database administrator for the geophysics group at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) for the past five years. He is also the knowledge-base coordinator for the DOE National Nuclear Security Administration Ground-Based Nuclear Explosion Monitoring Research and Engineering program at LANL.

Tyra Chavez (90, BS, materials engr.) was one of three women working in the aerospace industry who were profiled in New Mexico Woman in November 2001. Chavez is plant fulfillment manager at GE’s Aircraft Engines in Albuquerque’s South Valley. She heads a team that is in charge of raw materials ordering, planning, delivery, inventory, shipping, and receiving. She also enjoys making presentations for high school and elementary students, serving as a role model for both Hispanic and women engineers.

David Oakes (90, BS, math; 90, BS, biology; 93, MS, math) and Amy Stoklas-Oakes (91, BS, physics; 91, BS, engr.; 92, MS, engr. 92) want to announce their entrance into the “My Three Sons” club with the birth of their third child, Keefe Benjamin Oakes. Keefe gained one of the coveted numeric birthdays for the year by entering the world on 2/22/2002, five weeks early. He joins big brothers Cam Alexander, 4, and Tevel Aaron, 2.5. David is teaching math at Mesa Community College in Mesa, Ariz., and Amy is a project manager for the Tech Group, a global manufacturing company in Tempe.

Kelly J. Avila (91, BS, psychology; 91, BS, biology) has graduated from Colorado State University with a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree.

Dennis Reda (91, BS, math; 94, MS, math) writes, “In 2001, I relocated to Las Vegas, Nevada. I’m currently on a sabbatical from my job with the Navy, and I’m pursuing a second bachelor’s degree at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, in computer science.

“I expect to be in Vegas until May of 2003, and then, who knows? I’d love to hear from old friends. Drop me a note at dmreda@aol.com, especially if you’re going to be in Vegas sometime.”


Eric Campbell (94, BS, electrical engr.) and his wife Elaine welcomed Eric Aidan Campbell on Aug. 19. Their other son, Richard Declan, is 3 years old. Eric writes, “My wife is currently doing a fellowship in pediatric cardiology at the University of Indiana Riley Children’s Hospital. I have taken a position with Rockwell Automation as a senior engineer in their Global Manufacturing Solutions group. I work as an embedded engineer at Eli Lilly Company here in Indianapolis. I am working on their automated pharmaceutical process and packaging systems. If any of my fellow alumni wish to get in touch with me they can do so at eacampbell@ra.rockwell.com.”

Roxanne “Gypsy” Baer-Price (96, BS, technical communication) and Shawn Price (96, BGS) are the proud parents of Peter Lee Price, born on June 20, in Socorro. Shawn was recently added to the faculty of Cottonwood Valley Charter School in Socorro, and Roxanne is working on freelance article and grant writing.

Toby Click (96, BS, physics) has become manager of the Mark Smith Planetarium, at the Museum of Arts and Sciences in Macon, GA. In addition to the planetarium, the Museum also has an observatory open to the public on clear Friday nights.

Russell A. Higgins (96, BS, biology) married Christine D. Criscuolo on April 27, in Albuquerque. They are both medical students at the University of New Mexico, and received their
M.D. degrees in May. Christine’s specialty is family medicine and Russell’s is pathology.

Sammy Sallam (96, MS, petroleum engr.) writes, “Shortly after graduation from Tech, I worked for Halliburton Energy Services as a reservoir engineer/geoscientist in Houston, Texas. I was part of a team responsible for engineering 3D models for a revolutionary technique for visualizing the subsurface in three dimensions. We also integrated the different elements to visualize the reservoir and predict future performance. I was more specifically involved in the 3D simulation aspects of the reservoir. My work as part of a team can be found in the November 1998 Oil and Gas Journal for a Halliburton ad issued by the Reservoir Description Group.

“Currently, I am working for Hunt Oil Company in Yemen, based in Dallas, Texas. We are producing from the Marib PSA, and are partners with Exxon.”

Ricardo A. Chona (97, BS, petro. engr.) writes that he is a senior reservoir engineer with Saudi Arabian Texaco, working in the Partitioned Neutral Zone in Kuwait. He is in charge of Ratawi’s peripheral waterflood. His wife, Martha, and children Daniela, 11, Nicolas, 10, and Emilio, 1, are all enjoying living in Kuwait.

Ricardo adds, “Always have good memories of Socorro and New Mexico Tech. We like to stay in touch with friends. E-mails: Rchona1@hotmail.com and marthachona@yahoo.com.”

Teresa Espindola (97, BS, biology) writes, “I am a co-author on my second publication. It is titled “Cigarette Smoke-induced Airway Hyperresponsiveness Is Not Dependent on Elevated Immunoglobulin and Eosinophilic Inflammation in a Mouse Model of Allergic Airway Disease.” It was published in the American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine.” Teresa is a researcher technologist with Lovelace Respiratory Research Institute in Albuquerque. Persons wanting a copy of the publication may contact her at TEspindo@lrri.org.

Sofia Galanis Hohnholt (97, BS, environmental engr.) and her husband Gregory announce the birth of their identical twin boys, Thomas John and Stephen Andrew, on May 14, 2002, in Boston, Mass.

Dr. Alison Peck (97, MS, physics; 99, Ph.D., physics) writes, “After two years in Germany, I have just started a new postdoctoral fellowship at the Sub-Millimeter Array telescope being built by the Smithsonian Institution on Mauna Kea in Hawaii. My new URL is http://cfa-www.harvard.edu/~apeck/.”

Karl K. Thomas (97, BS, materials engr.) and Angie (Partain) Thomas (97, BS, environmental engr.) moved back to New Mexico in the summer of 2000 after 2 1/2 years in upstate New York. Angie works for Adelante Consulting Inc., supporting the Cerro Grande Rehabilitation Project, mainly in the construction of the new EOC (Emergency Operations Center). Karl has started a new job with P.A. Smith Concepts and Designs, also in Los Alamos. He is currently working on the Isotope Production Facility, which will eventually supply medical isotopes to hospitals. Karl and Angie add, “We have a house in White Rock and two dogs, no kids. The dogs are enough.”

Bernadette Hernandez (99, BS, chemistry) was one of 27 outstanding graduate students chosen to attend the 52nd convention of Nobel Laureates in Lindau, Germany, on July 1 - 5. The U. S. Department of Energy provided sponsorship for outstanding researchers at DOE-funded universities, national laboratories, or other federal facilities to travel to Lindau, where Nobel laureates convene annually to hold open and informal meetings with more than 400 students and young researchers from around the world. Bernadette is a graduate student at Colorado State University and has been a student intern at Sandia National Laboratories.

Erin Page (99, BS, math) and Lt. Robert Paul Rose (00, BS, electrical engr.) were married on June 29 at Eglin Air Force Base, Ft. Walton Beach, Fla., in a military wedding complete with an honor guard and a saber arch. Robert is stationed at Eglin Air Force Base and is working in the 796th Civil Engineering Squadron. Erin is an Americorps member, serving her community as a reading tutor for elementary children.
2000s

Sandeep Agnihotri (01, MS, environmental engr.) earned first place in a student poster presentation competition at the 95th Annual Air & Waste Management Association (A&WMA) Conference, in June 2002. A research paper on the same subject also recently garnered him a first-place award. Agnihotri’s award-winning poster presentation focused on the destruction of hazardous air. Sandeep is pursuing his doctorate at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where he is now working on a novel concept of using carbon nanotechnology for energy and environmental applications.

Dr. Marx Brook

July 12, 1920 — Sept. 3, 2002

by Paul Krebbiel, professor of physics

[Note: This is an abbreviated version. The full obituary is at http://www.nmt.edu/mainpage/obituaries/mbrook.html.]

Marx Brook, longtime professor of physics and professor emeritus at New Mexico Tech, passed away on Tuesday, September 3, 2002, while in the hospital following emergency abdominal surgery.

Marx received his B.Sc. degree in physics from the University of New Mexico in 1944, where he was a student of Robert Holzer and E.J. Workman. He did his graduate studies at UCLA, where he received his M.Sc. and Ph.D. degrees in 1949 and 1953, respectively. After a brief stint as a research geophysicist at UCLA’s Institute of Geophysics, Marx joined the Physics Department at New Mexico Tech in 1954. This was at the invitation of Dr. Workman, who became president of Tech in 1945.

Upon coming to Tech, Marx began his long and distinguished career as a lightning and thunderstorm researcher. In his early work, Marx collaborated with Tech scientist Steve Reynolds on laboratory studies of hail-based thunderstorm charging processes, observational studies of the onset of electrification in storms, and field studies of the sources of electric charge during cloud-to-ground (CG) and intracloud (IC) lightning flashes. Marx also made high quality time-resolved photographic measurements of CG lightning discharges with specially designed moving film cameras. In 1957, Marx began a series of highly fruitful collaborations with a number of Japanese scientists, first with Nobu Kitagawa, then Toshio Ogawa, Misumi Takagi, and later Minoru Nakano. These studies produced continuous, high speed measurements of CG lightning discharges with specially designed moving film cameras.

“New Mexico Tech gratefully acknowledges the GenCorp Foundation’s generous support of our scholarship programs,” says Steve Bobinsky, director of advancement at New Mexico Tech. “This donation will go a long way in encouraging academic excellence in all our science and engineering students.”

Gencorp Foundation Funds Scholarships at New Mexico Tech

The GenCorp Foundation has donated $1,500 to New Mexico Tech in support of academic scholarships for selected students. The GenCorp Foundation’s parent company, GenCorp, is a major technology based manufacturing company headquartered in Sacramento, Calif.

Aerojet, one of GenCorp’s main subsidiaries that specializes in military, civil, and commercial aerospace and defense systems, maintains corporate offices in Socorro, N.M., and operates testing facilities in the New Mexico Tech Research Park.

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Workman and colleagues of being a consummate experimentalist, observationalist, and builder of research equipment. He had a long-time interest in the use of radar for studying thunderstorms and some novel ideas about how to do this. His many and varied research projects thus included the construction and development of a fast-scanning surveillance radar (the “red ball” radar) that utilized noise transmissions to speed up the radar reflectivity measurements of storms, for which he received a U.S. patent in 1976. The fast-scanning radar was used as part of an NSF-sponsored study lightning and thunderstorms over Kennedy Space Center during the Thunderstorm Research International Program (TRIP) during the summers of 1976-1978, in collaboration with Roger Lhermitte of the University of Miami. Also starting in the 1970s he oversaw the development of a larger, wideband noise and dual-polarization radar that has continued to be a state-of-the-art research platform to this day.

In addition to his early lightning studies, Marx made measurements of positive CG lightning during two winter seasons in Japan during 1976 and 1977. He continued these and related observations in conjunction with his long-time colleagues Bernard Vonnegut and Richard Orville at the State University of New York in Albany, and during the Convective and Precipitation Electrification study (CaPE) held at Kennedy Space Center in 1991. Marx’s involvement in studies at Kennedy Space Center dated back to 1970 when he and Tech colleagues C.B. Moore and Charles Holmes conducted a study of the November 1969 Apollo 12 lightning incident, in which the Apollo moon rocket triggered a lightning discharge shortly after being launched into an electrified cloud. Later, in 1973, Marx collaborated with Charlie Moore and T. Sigurgeirsson in a study of lightning during the Heimay Island volcanic eruption off the southern coast of Iceland.

Marx was promoted to professor of physics in 1960 and was chairman of Tech’s Physics Department from 1968-1978. In 1978, he became director of the Research and Development Division at Tech, remaining in that position until his retirement in 1986. In 1983, Marx was instrumental in establishing the Center for Explosives Technology Research (CETR) and recruiting its internationally known director, Per-Anders Persson.

Of the various awards and honors that Marx received, the one that he was most proud of was the Lifetime Achievement Award that was presented to him, Charlie Moore, and Bernie Vonnegut in December 1993 by the atmospheric electricity community at the Fall AGU Meeting that year. Marx was born on July 12, 1920 in New York City. He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Dorothy, and by children Janet, Jim, Georgia, and their families.

Persons wishing to make a memorial contribution may do so by donating to the Esther and Abraham Brook Award Fund, established at Tech by Marx in memory of his parents, c/o Office for Advancement, New Mexico Tech, 801 Leroy Place, Socorro, NM 87801.

**Obituaries**

**March to October 2002**

**John David Aumen** passed away on April 16, in Gulf Breeze, Fla. He was a 1951 graduate of the New Mexico School of Mines, with a bachelor’s degree in mining engineering. Aumen was born in New Haven, Conn. on January 3, 1923. He served in the U.S. Coast Guard for three years during World War II. John was retired from Monsanto, where he was a project engineer.

John was preceded in death by his parents, John D. Aumen, Sr., and Edith Enquist Aumen and brother, William C. Aumen. He is survived by his loving wife of 57 years, Clara B. Aumen; son, John D. Aumen III of Gulf Breeze, Fla.; daughters, Karin (Donald) Thomas of Gulf Breeze, Lauri (Daniel) Borer of Sebastian, Fla., Karla H. Aumen of Gulf Breeze, grandson, Brian and wife Melissa Thomas; several great-grandchildren, brother-in-
law, John W. Blanke of Navarre, and sister-in-law, Eva Aumen of Mustoe, Va.

John J. Godell age 86, passed away on March 11. He was a 1940 graduate of the School of Mines with a bachelor’s degree in mining engineering. He had worked in the oil industry, and, in addition, had owned a dry cleaning shop and a pizza restaurant. He was a member of the President’s Club and a Lifetime Member of the Alumni Association. He is survived by his wife, Mary; son, John, and wife, Carol Godell; son, James R. and wife, Yvonne Godell; and their families.

Frederick Hendershot, a 1938 graduate of the New Mexico School of Mines, passed away on April 18 at Oaknoll Retirement Residence in Iowa City. He was 89.

Mr. Hendershot was born on Nov. 27, 1912, in Newark, N.J., to F. Elias and Ethel (Vroom) Hendershot. He married Virginia Ball on Feb. 3, 1938, in Bernalillo, N.M. She died in 1995. He received a bachelor of science degree in mining engineering from the New Mexico School of Mines, and served as a lieutenant commander in the U.S. Navy from 1943 to 1947.

His profession of mining engineering took him to Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Mexico, Colombia, Venezuela, and Canada. His engineering experience included positions of chief engineer, chief of mine planning, and general manager.

He was a member of the First United Methodist Church, Iowa City Noon Lions Club, Elks Lodge, Optimists, American Legion, and the American Institute of Mining Engineers.

James E. Kapteina, class of 1952, passed away on March 22. James was the only son of Grace Anderson and Otto Kapteina. He served in World War II in the U.S. Army Transportation Corps in North Africa, Sicily, and Italy as a staff sergeant.

After the war, he moved to Socorro to attend the New Mexico School of Mines, where he graduated in 1952 with a bachelor’s degree in petroleum engineering. He married Virginia Fern Cross Grissom in Socorro on Aug. 26, 1950. James worked for the Standard Oil Company of Texas from 1952 to 1959, when he moved to Santa Fe to work for the Oil Conservation Commission of New Mexico. He retired from state service in 1977. Virginia predeceased him in 1993.

He is survived by his daughter, Linda, and her husband, Kenneth Hansen; step-daughter, Barbara Grissom; two sisters, Jane Daniels and Martha Gunia; and grandchildren, nieces, and nephews.

Philip B. Mudgett (30, BS, mining engr.), age 94, passed away on July 22 in Denver. He was a mining engineer, retired from the U. S. Geological Survey. No further information was available at press time.

J. Rogers (Rod) Pearcy died on April 7 at the age of 72 in Sidell, La. He was a 1960 graduate of New Mexico Tech, with a bachelor’s degree in petroleum engineering.

Pearcy was a resident of Granbury, Texas, for the past nine years. He was a native of Gorman, Texas. Pearcy began his 32-year career with the U.S. Geological Survey as a petroleum engineer in Roswell, N.M. He moved to Mandeville, La., in 1968 and advanced to become the Regional Director of the Gulf of Mexico Region for the Minerals Management Service, a branch of the Dept. of Interior in New Orleans. Pearcy was widely recognized in the oil industry as an expert in reservoir engineering and management of offshore production of oil and gas. Most notable of his many awards and honors were his selection as Engineer of the Year for the U.S. Dept. of the Interior in 1984 and recipient of the Distinguished Service Award, the highest award given by the Dept. of Interior in 1985. Pearcy had been a member of the Offshore Operating Committee; a past president of the New Orleans Chapter of Petroleum Engineers (AIME); and a former member of Beau Chene Country Club.

Survivors include his wife, Pat; four sons: Bret, Houston, Texas; Vic, Austin, Texas; Robert,
Slidell, La.; and Jeff, Atlanta, Ga.; three brothers; Neil, Morgan Point, Texas; Jan, Hico, Texas; and Derrell, McComb, Okla. He is also survived by grandchildren and step-grandchildren. Pearcy donated his body to LSU Medical School for research.

Arthur P. Stanton, New Mexico Tech’s longtime registrar and personnel manager, died on Saturday, April 27, 2002.

Stanton was born in Albuquerque on October 9, 1912 to Antonio and Mercedes Chavez, both of pioneer New Mexico families. He graduated from Albuquerque High School in 1932 and from the University of New Mexico in 1937 with a B.S. in mathematics. He served in the South Pacific (Mariana and Gilbert Islands campaigns) until the end of World War II.

In 1947, Stanton joined New Mexico Tech as registrar and personnel manager. He instituted Tech’s Honors Work-Study program in 1952. After retiring from Tech in 1971, he joined the University of New Mexico and developed the New Mexico State Student Loan Program.

His memberships include Sigma Phi-Epsilon fraternity, the Albuquerque 20/30 Club, Socorro Presbyterian Church and Socorro Rotary Club. He served as president of the Rotary Club, was a Paul Harris Fellow and District Governor Representative. His hobbies included home improvement, golf and fishing.

Art was preceded in death by his parents, a sister, Melba Bailey and brothers Benjamin and Walter. He is survived by his beloved wife, Jean; sister, Mercedes Garoffolo; daughter Ann Stanton and husband, David Connor of Montpelier, VT; son, Thomas Stanton and wife, Mary of Polvadera, NM; four grandchildren: Christopher and Benjamin Stanton, Jesse Snipper and Nora Connor, and many beloved nieces and nephews.

Jeremiah Wright, a New Mexico Tech student and captain of the Tech Pygmies Rugby Football Club, was killed in a car accident on Sept. 28. Jeremiah, age 22, was a senior in mechanical engineering.

Wright and Erron Rae Todd, a University of New Mexico student, were passengers in a vehicle driven by another Tech student, Christopher Michel, 22, of Socorro. According to published sources, the Michel vehicle pulled into the intersection of California and Bullock streets and into the path of an oncoming State Police car. The accident is under investigation.

Wright and Todd were both killed on impact. Michel was injured but was released from the hospital two days later. He and Wright were housemates, and Todd was his fiancée.

“Jeremiah led by example,” said Dave Wheelock, Tech’s rugby coach. “He was unassuming and thoughtful, never verbose, and yet when he spoke, people listened. Jeremiah personified the ancient ideal of a sound mind in a sound body.”

“He was a very quiet, mature, professional young man,” said Dr. Harold Walling, chairman of Tech’s mechanical engineering department and Wright’s faculty advisor for two years.

Tributes and a full obituary are at http://www.nmt.edu/mainpage/obituaries/wright.html. The Department of Mechanical Engineering established a “Jeremiah Wright Memorial Fund,” proceeds of which will be used to purchase much-needed computer equipment for the department in Jeremiah’s name. Contributions should be addressed to: Advancement Office, New Mexico Tech, 801 Leroy Place, Socorro, N.M. 87801. Please make checks out to “New Mexico Tech” and write “Jeremiah Wright” on the memo line of the check.)

The Alumni Office received word of the passing of Michael Terrell (73, BGS), a resident of Palos Hills, Ill. No further information was available.

The Alumni Office received word of the passing of Andrew J. Zinkl (39, BS, petroleum engr.) on Feb. 12, 1999, of congestive heart failure resulting from respiratory complications. No further information was available.