NEW MEXICO TECH
COMMENCEMENT
Saturday, May 11, 2024
Class of 2024
THE FUTURE IS YOURS

Stay connected and watch your classmates grow, thrive, & flourish!

Starting May 17, scan QR code to download commencement photos.

Use this hashtag to share your photos on Instagram, Facebook, & LinkedIn: #NMTGrad2024

@NewMexicoTech
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Dean of Engineering

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Faculty Senate Chair

Jennifer Chapman
Dean of Students

Elaine DeBrine-Howell
Dean of Student Success Initiatives
Welcome and Address
Dr. Mahyar Amouzegar, President

Distinguished Teaching Award
The Distinguished Teaching Award is presented each year to a faculty member based on recommendations and nominations from students, alumni, and other faculty. The winner receives a plaque and a $2,500 cash award.

Student Speaker
Brianna Detsoi, Class of 2024

Langmuir Award
The Langmuir Award for Excellence in Research is given for an outstanding scientific research paper by any student or graduate of New Mexico Tech. The paper must have been submitted to or published by a recognized journal during the preceding year. The recipient is selected by the Faculty Senate's Honorary Degrees and Awards Committee. The award is named in honor of Irving Langmuir (Nobel Laureate, chemistry, 1932) who conducted extensive research with Tech staff. The award consists of a plaque and a $400 cash award.

Founders' Award
The Founders' Award was created to honor the persons responsible for establishing the New Mexico School of Mines in Socorro in 1889, especially J.J. Baca and Ethan Eaton. The award is presented to the recipient of an advanced degree who has made an outstanding contribution to Tech through scholarship, research, and involvement in campus affairs. The recipient is chosen by faculty nomination and Faculty Senate election. The award consists of a plaque and an $800 cash award.

Cramer Awards
These awards were established to honor Tom Cramer, an engineer and a member of the Tech Board of Regents for 26 years. These awards are given to the top two graduating seniors in engineering who rank highest in scholarship. The awards consist of a citation and a $400 cash award. The recipients are chosen by the Faculty Senate upon recommendation of the engineering faculty.

Brown Award
The Brown Award is named in honor of Mr. C.T. Brown, a mining executive and great benefactor of NMT and of Soccoro who served on the Tech Board of Regents from 1898 to 1914 and from 1917 to 1922. It is presented to the member of the graduating class who, in the opinion of the faculty, ranks highest in scholarship, conduct, and leadership. The award consists of a plaque and a prize of $1,000.
PRESENTATION OF DEGREES

Undergraduates
Dr. Matthew Johnson, Assistant Professor of Spanish and Hispanic Studies

Graduates
Dr. Aly El-Osery, Dean of Graduate Studies, Professor of Electrical Engineering

Recessional
Dr. Mahyar Amouzegar, President

AFTER THE CEREMONY

New Mexico Tech was founded in 1889, and you join an illustrious group of alumni in science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and beyond.

We are delighted to invite you to the graduation reception, which will take place on the beautiful New Mexico Tech campus after the commencement ceremony.

This momentous event marks the culmination of your academic journey and is a time to celebrate your achievements with your family and friends. We encourage you to take the time to reflect on your accomplishments and enjoy the beautiful surroundings with your loved ones.

This is a wonderful opportunity to capture photographs that will serve as cherished memories of your time at New Mexico Tech.
Brianna Detsoi, a familiar face on campus, is a Diné student from Bloomfield, New Mexico, and is receiving a Bachelor’s in Chemistry today. Brianna is a first-generation college student and the first of her siblings to graduate from college. She is also the first Native American student to be named the Commencement Student Speaker at New Mexico Tech.

Brianna is of the Folded Arms clan, born into the Waters Coming Together clan. Her maternal grandfather is of the Mexican People clan and her paternal grandfather is of the Edgewater clan.

Brianna describes herself as energetic and enthusiastic, and is passionate about her research. In addition to excelling in chemistry, mathematics, physics, and biology, she has been a tutor for student success at San Juan College; an instructor and dorm parent for summer courses at Cushing Academy in Massachusetts; and a volunteer at an animal shelter in Farmington.

She earned an associate of science degree in chemistry in 2020 from San Juan College in Farmington, New Mexico. There, she served as a student representative for the Society for the Advancement of Chicanos/Latinos and Native Americans in Science. At both San Juan and New Mexico Tech, Brianna served as chapter president of the American Indian Science and Engineering Society.

After transferring to New Mexico Tech, Brianna held two summer internships at the New Mexico IDeA Networks of Biomedical Research Excellence, housed at New Mexico State University. Brianna is also a recipient of the Bright Star Scholar Program internship from the Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources as well as a merit-based Cobell Scholarship for Native college students.

She will pursue a Ph.D. in inorganic chemistry at New Mexico State University in the fall.
Dr. David Meier is an Associate Professor who teaches courses throughout the undergraduate and graduate physics curriculum, including those on Astronomy and Astrophysics. His prolific scholarship focuses on the evolution of star formation and its natal fuel across galaxies and has multiple collaborations, including colleagues at the National Radio Astronomy Observatory. He joined the NMT faculty in 2008.

Twelve individuals nominated Dr. Meier for this award and they highlighted his dedication, compassion, and quirky sense of humor. The feedback on the level of instruction received from students this year impressed the committee; students emphasized his availability, his ability to engage and inspire them, and his willingness to assist and help them succeed.

As one of his students summarized: “he makes confusing subjects such as special relativity and the quantum mechanics of atoms somehow understandable.” Another said, “He makes class exciting and interesting, and I often leave lectures asking more questions than I begin with.” Dr. Meier, observed an additional student, “does an excellent job of staying ‘in tune’ with the class and really prioritizes maximizing our learning.”

“It is a great honor to receive this award,” said Dr. Meier. “Teaching is such a vital and rewarding part of being a professor. It is wonderful to have the hard work and dedication recognized. All the credit goes to the students and the material for making it so fun to teach.”

Dr. Meier earned a B.A. in physics from California State University, Los Angeles; and an M.S. and Ph.D. in astronomy from University of California, Los Angeles.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Departmental Awards</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Biology Department</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Chemistry Department</strong></td>
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<td>Carl J. Popp Award</td>
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<td>Jackson Orr</td>
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<td>Matthew Patchett</td>
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<td>Physical Chemistry Award</td>
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<td>Quinn Abfalterer</td>
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<td>Jordyn Wemhoner</td>
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<td>Melvin J. Hatch Award</td>
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<td>Victor Schiller</td>
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<td><strong>Materials &amp; Metallurgical Engineering Department</strong></td>
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<td>BS: Annika Bauman</td>
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<td>MS: Md Mahmudul Hasan</td>
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<td>MS: ThankGod Nwokocha</td>
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<td>Thomas Hands</td>
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<td>Charles Jarvorsky Award</td>
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<td>Gabriel Beltran</td>
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<td>Brenna DeLowery</td>
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<td>Nomar Roman</td>
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<td>John Switzer</td>
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<td>Physics Achievement Award</td>
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<td><strong>Chemical Engineering Department</strong></td>
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<td>Outstanding Student</td>
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<td>Tucker A Burnett</td>
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<td>Paige Ashman Memorial Award</td>
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<td>Joseph C Nickerson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Austin L Starnes</td>
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</table>
GRADUATING TECH SCHOLARS
A designation awarded to students who have demonstrated superior scholastic competence and conduct.

Matthew Barber
Juliana Barstow
Matthew Beecher
David Bennecke
Bhumika Bhakta
Jaider Bhullar
Emma Brudos
Tucker Burnett
DawnMonique Cantu
Logan Caspersen
Bishop Cervantes
Antonio Chavez
Sarah Crotzer
Lillian DeGroot
Devyn Del Curto
Marissa DiFederico
Gage Ellis
Samuel Fisher
Patrocino Flores
Ariana Garcia
Forest Good
Donovan Griego
Jessica Gwilt
Calysa Huff
Nicholas Hutt
Kaleb Jewett
Cason Jones
Mia Karmesin
Mason Kasprowicz
Preston Kite
Mariam Koanda
Amanda Lague
Garrett LaLonde
Wesley Leavitt
Adrian Maez
Shemariah Maher
Adam Mirate
Anita Montoya
James Montoya
Matthew Moore
Ruthie Mulvaney
Joseph Nickerson
Eric Nuñez
Jakobe Ochoa
Aaron Ortiz
Edgar Pallares
Aidan Parral
Zack Parral
Mathew Rawson
Natalia Saiz
Adam Salazar
Cassandra Skaar
Austin Starnes
Zane Stevens
Casie Taylor
Alyias Thomas
Reese Turpish
Matthew Tyrrell
Nathanael Umba
Kristen Valero
Jackson Vaughn Furr
Jack Vickerman
Robert Volkman
Jason Wiberg
Benjamin Wilson
Taylor Yazzie
Robert Young
Aubrey Zimmer

2024 MACEY SCHOLARS
The William B. & Jean M. Macey Scholars Program recognizes undergraduates whose accomplishments in academics, research, service, volunteerism, and other activities are exceptional and inspiring. Macey Scholars receive a financial award of $5,000.

Chemical Engineering
Samantha Knight
Chemical Engineering
James Angelos
Biomedical Science
Ruthie Mulvaney
Biology
Calyssa Huff
# UNDERGRADUATE DEGREES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>* Honors Cumulative GPA of 3.00 to 3.49</th>
<th>** High Honors Cumulative GPA of 3.50 to 3.74</th>
<th>*** Highest Honors Cumulative GPA of 3.75 to 4.00</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bachelor of General Studies</strong></td>
<td><strong>Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Sciences with Psychology &amp; Neuroscience Option</strong></td>
<td>Christopher Colin Roy*</td>
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<td>Meadow Marilla Crise*</td>
<td>Jason Thomas Wiberg***</td>
<td>Tim Santiago Salazar</td>
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<td>Justin D Trussell*</td>
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<td>Kristen Renee Valero*</td>
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<td><strong>Bachelor of Arts in Chemistry</strong></td>
<td><strong>Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering</strong></td>
<td>Jackson Bennett Vaughn Furr*</td>
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<td>Brianna Whitney Detsoi</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Bachelor of Science in Basic Sciences</strong></td>
<td>Christopher Atlee Gaddis (Minor in Mechanical Engineering)</td>
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<td>Dylan M Nelson</td>
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<td>Nathan S Rosenberg</td>
<td>Roland Reed Lassiter*</td>
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<td>John J Lempke</td>
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<td>Jonathan Lewis Logan</td>
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<td>Amarelis Patricia Meraz</td>
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<td>Aidan Michael Myerscough</td>
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<td>Sabine-Claire Brittney Nkolo Essomba*</td>
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<td>(Minor in Hispanic Studies)</td>
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<td>Aaron Jordan Ortiz***</td>
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<td>Alyssa Marie Sandusky</td>
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<td>Shemariah Maher***</td>
<td>Tyler Daniel LeMoine*</td>
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<td>Zack Paulson Parral***</td>
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<td>Malcolm Claymore Ross*</td>
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<td>Nathanael Manara Kalangwa Umba***</td>
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<td>Antonio Charles Chavez**</td>
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UNDERGRADUATE DEGREES

Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science with Hydrology Option
Taylor Cecelia Yazzie**
(Minor in Environmental Engineering)

Bachelor of Science in Management
Bethany Clarice Cannon*

Bachelor of Science in Materials Engineering
Ian Ahlen
Emma Lahela Brudos***
Anne Mae Dunn*
Benito Silva
(Minor in Chemical Engineering)
Dylan Schroeder

Bachelor of Science in Mathematics
David Maxwell Bennecke***
Bhumika H Bhakta***
(Minor in Secondary Education)
Bishop Martin Cervantes***
(Minor in Secondary Education)
Marissa Faith DiFederico**
Samuel Christopher Fisher*
Forest Taylor Good***
Simon August Kopischke*
Robert Josef Young***

Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering
Matthew Steven Barber**
Levi Maximus Barel
Tucker Lloyd Barraclough*
Juliana Xene Barstow***
Joseph David Bertrand*
DawnMonique Maria Cantu***
Logan Kye Caspersen***
Lillian Faye DeGroot***
Gage Charles Ellis***
Sebastian Espinoza
(Minor in Electrical Engineering)
Eric Alan Fielenbach*
Patrocinio Castaneda Flores***
Dylan T Fredrickson
Hector Sebastian Grijalva*
Daniel Blake Guzman*
Jessica Courtney Gwilt*
Alex Mykel Hamilton*
Bolton Joseph Hick*
Charles Hill*
Tristen Riley James*
Kaleb Sebastian Jewett***
Cason R Jones***
Mason Graham Kasprówicz***
Garrett Lee LaLonde***
Amanda Rynne Lague***
Alejandro Lopez*
Michael Richard Lucero
William Richard Lucker
Darren Tayaban Marcelino
Adam Gerald Mirate**
James Robert Joseph
Montoya***
Santiago R Montoya
Matthew Garner Moore***
Paul Allen Morabito
Eric Benjamin Nuñez**
Connor Xander Oakley*
Jakobe Nathaniel Ochoa**
John Cameron Padgett*
Derek Allen Plummer*
Michael Alexander Prothero
Tharindu Ranasinghe*
Zachary Lee Richardson*
Eleanor Anne Rightley*
Ruben Moises Rodriguez-Hernandez*
Xavier J Romero*
Natalia Saiz**
Margarita Sandoval
Matthew Keaton Spencer*
Zane Clay Stevens*
(Minor in Explosives Engineering)
Sarah N Trujillo*
Reese T Turpish***
Matthew L Tyrrell***
(Minor in Electrical Engineering)
Jack Peteris Vickerman***
Hunter Andrew Williamson
Quinten Patrick Wood*

Bachelor of Science in Physical Science with Astrophysics Option
Juliana Xene Barstow***
Celeste Elizalde Flores*
Wesley B Leavitt**
(Minor in Mathematics)

Bachelor of Science in Physics with Atmospheric Physics Option
Brandon Lane Smith*

Bachelor of Science in Psychology
Mia Eve Karmesin***
(Minor in Biology)

Bachelor of Science in Technical Communication
Kaleb Howard Bjorkman

Bachelor of Science in Petroleum & Natural Gas Engineering
Josie Joann Hastings*
(Minor in Petroleum Geology)
Sarah Feliz Skrien*

Bachelor of Science in Physics
Mariana Emelia Baca*
(Minor in Mathematics)
Stefan L Beauchamp*
David Maxwell Bennecke***
Ariana Garcia*
(Minor in Mathematics)
Forest Taylor Good***
Samuel R Moya*
Robert Staub***

Bachelor of Science in Physics & Mathematics
Adam Salazar**

Bachelor of Science in Petroleum & Natural Gas Engineering
Josie Joann Hastings*
(Minor in Petroleum Geology)
Sarah Feliz Skrien*
# CORDS & TASSELS OF RECOGNITION & ACHIEVEMENT

## CORDS

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<tr>
<th>Royal Blue Cords</th>
<th>Blue, White, &amp; Gold Braids</th>
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<tr>
<td>Office of Student Learning Tutors</td>
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<td>Mint Green Cords</td>
<td>Red, White &amp; Blue Braids</td>
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<td>Lime Green Cords</td>
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## TASSELS

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<td>Doctorate</td>
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## MASTERS DEGREES

**Master of Engineering in Chemical Engineering with Specialization in Surface Engineering**
- Destiny Joy Crawford
- Arianna Elise Lopez
- Matthews

**Master of Engineering Management**
- Emmanuel Benjamin Hernandez

**Master of Engineering in Materials Engineering**
- Matthew Dougherty
- Kristian Renee Martindale

**Master of Engineering in Mechanical Engineering with Specialization in Explosives Engineering**
- Lydia Frost
- Tyler Guillen

**Master of Engineering in Mechanical Engineering with Specialization in Mechatronics Systems & Robotics**
- Rodrigo Cervantes
- Chris Michael Dinelli
- Rebecca Nicole Sappington

**Master of Science in Biology**
- Abigail Rose Brown
- Casia Esparza
- Katelyn Green

**Master of Science in Chemical Engineering with Specialization in Surface Engineering**
- Janet Baffoe
- Tahmidul Islam

**Master of Science in Chemistry**
- Jordyn Wemhoner

**Master of Science in Civil & Environmental Engineering with Specialization in Environmental Engineering**
- Gabriela Domenica Torres Fernandez

**Master of Science in Computer Science**
- Imtiaz Ahmed
- Anh Hood
- Kiran Padamnnor Rayasa Rao

**Master of Science in Engineering Management**
- Matthew Hood

**Master of Science in Geophysics**
- Bryan R Thomas

**Master of Science in Hydrology**
- Rebecca Claire Moskal
MASTERS DEGREES

Master of Science in Materials Engineering
Mohammad Chowdhury
Christopher Lafferty
Danielsen Moreno
ThankGod N Nwokocha

Master of Science in Materials Engineering with Metallurgical Engineering Option
Alex J Valdez

Master of Science in Mathematics with Specialization in Operations Research & Statistics
Abdul Awal
Md Maidul Husain

Master of Science in Mechanical Engineering with Specialization in Explosives Engineering
Kailene Strebe

Master of Science in Mechanical Engineering with Specialization in Mechatronics Systems & Robotics
Jared C Cannon
Jesse Michael Montano
Luke Strebe

Master of Science in Mineral Engineering with Specialization in Geotechnical Engineering & Geomechanical Engineering
Benjamin Abankwa
Bright Arko
Sandra Abena Abuua
Owusuua Donkor
Maria Camila Acevedo Garcia
Abena Serwah
Acheampong-Mensah
Jeffrey Gordon
Simon Lotero Lopez
Santiago Navia Vasquez
Angela Nataly Vanegas
Valderrama

Master of Science in Mineral Engineering with Specialization in Mineral Exploration
Ernest Brakohiapa
Kyle Stafford

Master of Science in Petroleum Engineering
Armando Lopez

Master of Science in Physics with Concentration in Instrumentation
Francisco-Rey Albert Pedroza

Master of Science in Transdisciplinary Cybersecurity
Elijah Pelofske
Leroy Valencia

Master of Science for Teachers
Arnida Mariano Acosta
Miranda T Chavez
Jennifer Martin
Mary Yalnaty

Professional Master in Transdisciplinary Cybersecurity
Parker B Alcone
Summer Snow Bronson
Gilbert Joe Carrillo

Professional Master of Hydrology
Kevin Olson

Master of Mineral Engineering
Lukman Alabede

Master of Electrical Engineering
Xander Jones

2024
DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY DEGREES

Doctor of Philosophy in Biotechnology
Mendi Gonzalez Marquez

Doctor of Philosophy in Chemistry
Lumala Nelum Perera Naullage
Qi Wang

Doctor of Philosophy in Computer Science
Zhirui Luo
Ruobin Qi

Doctor of Philosophy in Earth & Environmental Science with Dissertation in Geophysics
Jessica Aerts

Doctor of Philosophy in Mechanical Engineering with Dissertation in Intelligent Energetic Systems
Christian Rolf Peterson
Sivana Mirhai Torres

Doctor of Philosophy in Petroleum Engineering
Mohamed Ahmed Abouzaid Mohamed Metwally
Anthony Morgan

Doctor of Philosophy in Physics with Dissertation in Astrophysics
Daniel Jensen

Doctor of Philosophy in Physics with Dissertation in Astrophysics
Tatiana Magali Rodriguez

Ph.D. COPPER DIPLOMAS

It is a tradition at NMT that Ph.D. recipients receive, in addition to the paper diploma, a copper diploma that has been explosively formed and etched in inimitable NMT fashion.

The process of creating these copper diplomas starts with a piece of copper that is placed in contact with a laser-etched rubber sheet that has all of the text of the diploma as well as a piece of explosive sheet material.

When the material is detonated, the explosive gases jet through the rubber, etching the words into the copper. In addition, a piece of aluminum foil is explosively welded and imprinted onto the copper that contains the New Mexico Tech Seal.

This special diploma incorporates the history of Tech’s mining, materials, chemistry, physics, and engineering fields in a unique manner. It represents the science, innovation, and creativity that have been NMT hallmarks since our founding in 1889.
New Mexico Tech has bestowed a posthumous doctorate in Geophysics to Joseph Zinecker, for “developing an elegant numerical research approach to show, for the first time, that submarine fans can deform continents.”


Joe dreamed of getting a Ph.D., and he never gave up. He was accepted as a doctoral student in geophysics at New Mexico Tech and started January 2021.

Joe completed all the coursework except for graduate seminars. He also finished all research for his first publication and the first research chapter of his dissertation. The latter focuses on deformation of the Indian subcontinent as a result of loading of the Indian plate by the two largest submarine sediment fans on Earth: the Indus and Bengal fans. Other chapters were funded by the National Science Foundation. One goal of the project: to understand how forces that act on tectonic plate boundaries can propagate more than 1,000 kilometers into plate interiors and cause deformation there. Joe was building the first set of models when he passed away.

Currently, Dr. Jolante van Wijk, his advisor, and Joe’s son, Marcus (Ph.D. geology), are completing that work.

Throughout his career and as a Ph.D. student at NMT, Joe volunteered for many organizations: from New Mexico Science Olympiad to MD Anderson Cancer Center to the Nature Conservancy. Most important to Joe was his involvement with Boy Scouts of America. He was a Scout and adult leader from 1967 to 2021. For more than a decade, he volunteered as a backcountry geologist for the organization, teaching field geology on a yearly basis, most recently in 2023.

He passed away unexpectedly at age 63 on a return flight from holiday in Europe on December 30, 2023. JoAnne, his wife of 38 years, was by his side. Additional survivors include three children, two grandchildren, his parents, siblings, and numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins.
CLASS OF 2024
THIS IS YOUR MOMENT

To All of the NMT Graduates,

As your Dean of Students, I am proud of your accomplishments. Now, you stand on the threshold of a new journey; remember: the world awaits your brilliance, passion, and unwavering determination. Each step you take from this moment forward is a testament to your hard work and resilience. Embrace challenges as opportunities, failures as lessons, and success as a journey, not a destination. As you step across that stage, do so with courage, kindness, and an unwavering belief that your next steps will be the best. Congratulations, graduates. You are and will always be a part of our New Mexico Tech family.

Jennifer Chapman
NMT Dean of Students