

NMT Alumni Newsletter



Alumni & Friends



Office for Advancement & Alumni Relations Mission Statement

To build and inspire a lasting community that will support and advance the success of New Mexico Tech.

We support the university's mission by nurturing a culture of philanthropy and stewarding the ongoing relationship between the university, its alumni, donors, and friends.

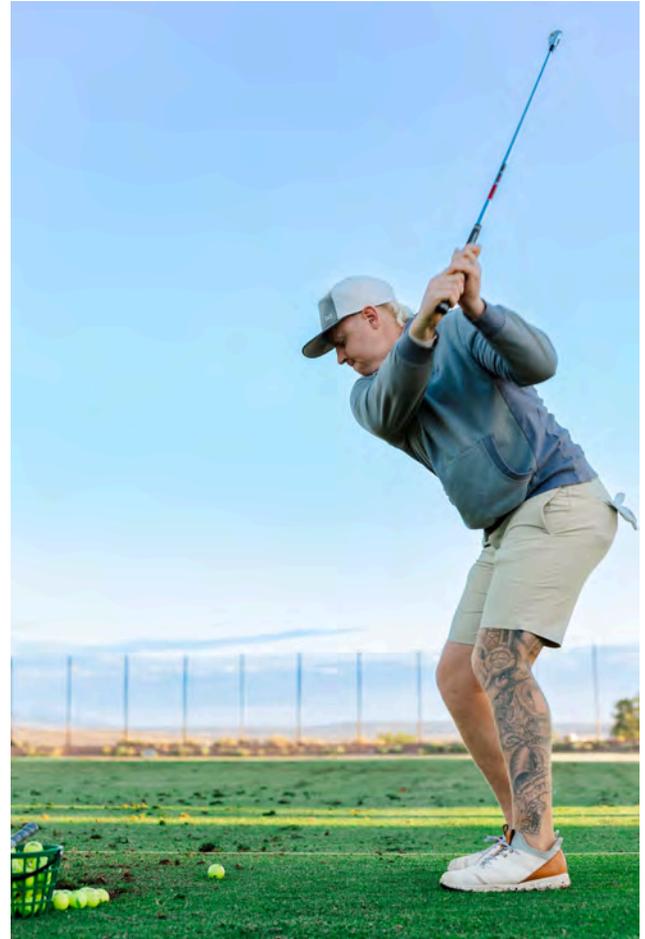
We strive to stay in contact with our alumni and our generous donors. Please email (advancement@nmt.edu) or phone us (575.835.5352) to update your information or if you have questions or concerns. Everyone is invited to share their ideas.



New Mexico Tech golf tournament renamed for Dr. López

Citing his energy, enthusiasm, and outstanding leadership as a goodwill ambassador for the university, the New Mexico Tech Board of Regents voted unanimously Oct. 9, 2023, to permanently rename the annual President's Golf Tournament in honor of Interim President Daniel H. López. López, who served as the STEM university's president from 1993 to 2016 and took over as interim president last spring, recently oversaw the most successful golf tournament NMT has ever held.

The 31st annual NMT golf tournament, now renamed The Daniel H. López President's Golf Tournament, will be held Sept. 19 and 20, 2024.



Dan McIntosh , Long Drive Pro



Dr. Daniel H. López



Explosive Test Center Team: Kyra Walsh, Emma Aafloy, Cassie Beach, and Jamie Sandoval

2023 President's Golf Tournament

The 30th Annual President's Golf Tournament, held Sept. 14 and 25, 2023 at the NMT Golf Course, raised \$345,062.50 for scholarships helping students complete their education. This year's tournament attracted 420 participants, including alumni, community members, students and staff. Board of Regents Chairman Jerry A. Armijo cited the tournament's achievements in assisting more than 480 students over 30 years and as an event that brings the community together.



Rylee Salome



Andrew Carrillo, Lonnie Marquez, Kate Wavrik, & Nouraddine Benalil



Doc Stanley & Mike Stanley



Hispano Chamber of Commerce Team: Steve Schroeder, Chris Schroeder, Ernie C'deBaca, and Geri C'deBaca



Student Volunteers: Brandon Hunt & Antonio Ortiz

<https://www.nmt.edu/news/2023/golf-tournament-lopez.php>

2023 49ers Recap

Annual 49ers celebration at Tech brings alums, friends together



50 Year Reunion Ruggers



Current Ruggers



Solar Eclipsing: Dylan, Maxwell, Tim, Madeleine, and Dotti Merrigan

Many universities honor Homecoming Week in their own way. However here at NMT, 49ers is our longstanding tradition focusing on alumni achievements, student life, and Miners athletics. This year's 49ers was exceptionally special, being held during the annular eclipse, and it did not disappoint!

For the 2023 university-wide celebration, New Mexico Tech rolled out a fantastic galactic weekend full of activities, including some annual traditions such as M Mountain Run, a 25th & 50th class reunion, Ancestors vs. Miners Rugby Match, 49ers parade, and live music at the Cap. We also celebrated a few unique events such as a Tech Story Slam (which we plan to bring back next year), the 50th anniversary Rugby reunion, the annular solar eclipse viewing, and an alumni trip to the Albuquerque International Hot Air Balloon Fiesta.

Friday started off with Painting the M, where students, alumni, and community members test their endurance by hiking up to the top of M Mountain. Later in the day was the Block Party, one of our more recent innovations, where student clubs, athletic teams, academic departments, and local vendors set up booths with fun activities. Next was the annual rugby matches. The Ancestors took the win this year but the beer garden was the real MVP. The ruggers finished off their Ancestors reunion by honoring those who started the rugby team 50 years ago. That evening we celebrated our latest alumni awardees, honoring Johann Lindig as Techie of the Year, Pat Miller as the Philanthropist of 2023, Mackenzie Best as the Rising Star of the Year, and Dr. Curtis O'Malley as the Faculty Alumni Ambassador of the Year.

Saturday we set off for Albuquerque bright and early to view the Hot Air Balloon Fiesta festivities and the annular solar eclipse. Back on campus the Physics department and Student Life helped host more eclipse viewing opportunities and fun activities for all. We did break from tradition a bit with an evening electric light parade this year, and it seemed to be a great hit!

We finished the weekend with a farewell brunch on Sunday with lots of laughter recapping the weekend's events. All in all, we think this year's 49ers was a huge success, and hope you agree.

2023 49ers Alumni Awards



Johann Lindig



(B.S. 1984 Petroleum Engineering; B.S. 1986 Technical Communication) Johann has more than 30 years of experience as a consultant working within higher education and in the private sector to align programs and product development strategies to increase organizational capabilities. She holds a CPIM credential from the Association of Operations Management and a Stanford Certified Project Manager credential from the Stanford Center for Professional Development at Stanford University. A longtime generous donor to New Mexico Tech, she is also a founding member of the Women's Center Advisory Group, which is working to establish a Women's Center and a Diversity Center on the New Mexico Tech campus which will show Tech's commitment to foster equality across all genders, backgrounds, and ethnicities.

Mackenzie Best



(M.S. Geochemistry 2020) Mackenzie is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Geobiology at NMT. Her research focuses on astrobiological and biotechnological applications of extreme acid-adapted microorganisms, with a focus on their potential to leach metals from electronic waste. Daughter of alum Jeffrey Best (B.E. Mineral Engineering, 1997), Mackenzie has worked as an ore control geologist at a high-altitude copper mine in Espinar, Peru, as an exploration geologist at the Mumi copper and cobalt mine in Kolwezi, DRC, and was the geology consultant on a project using open-access imagery to estimate uranium production at mines in East Asia. She has been a Student Trustee on the New Mexico Tech Foundation Board since 2022.

2023 49ers Alumni Awards

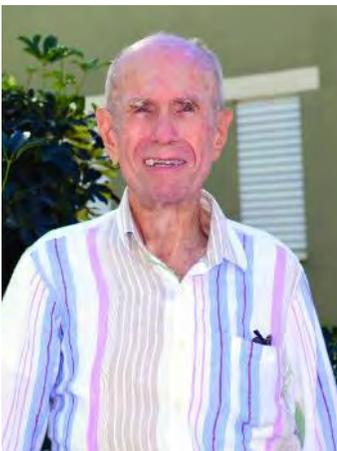
Curtis O'Malley



Curtis O'Malley began at NMT in 2012 as a post-doc researcher evaluating the technical and economic feasibility of a patented invention for the NMT Office of Research. He joined the NMT faculty as an adjunct professor the following semester and as a fulltime Assistant Professor in 2016. Dr. O'Malley teaches undergraduate mechanical engineering students from the beginning to end of their time at NMT, having most students in 6 to 8 classes throughout their studies. Students begin their engineering studies in his freshman intro to engineering course and transition into their careers as part of Jr/Sr Design Clinic classes. He also teaches other mechanics and design classes along the way.

Dr. O'Malley is already an award-winning STEM educator, receiving recognition for his numerous teaching, mentoring, and service achievements from the Air Force Research Lab, New Mexico Tech Distinguished Service Award, NMT SGA Faculty Appreciation Award, BBBS STEM awards, and Insight into Diversity Magazine. He directs numerous K-12 initiatives including the Robotic STEM Outreach Program, which has impacted students and teachers at schools from every corner of the state, and it continues to grow. The program works with teachers to design and support robotics activities and challenges that meet the needs, interest, and experience level of their students. The mechanical outreach program is expected to grow from 30 schools last year to supporting 50 mostly rural and Title 1 schools across NM this year. The program is supported by industry sponsors, individual donors, and the NM legislature. Professor O'Malley mentors on average 100 college students a year and trains and employs over 20 undergraduate and graduate students as he involves them in mentoring roles for K-12 programs. He holds a Ph.D. in Civil Engineering from Georgia Tech.

M. Pat Miller



(B.S. Petroleum Engineering, 1961) After graduating from NMT, Pat worked for six years as a Drilling Engineer for two drilling contractors in the United States and Mozambique. In 1967 he went to work with Texaco where he remained until his retirement in 1994. His assignments were in the U.S., Africa, the Far East, Ecuador, Guatemala, Saudi Arabia and Belgium. Most of his career with Texaco involved drilling, either managing projects or supporting and helping supervise the personnel running projects. His major interest outside work has always been investing. After helping to start a very successful investment club in 1991, he became involved with the National Association of Investors (NAIC). After retirement he became very active in the Southeast Florida Council of the NAIC and served as President for two years. Since 2004 he has been president of The M. Pat Miller Foundation, a 501(c)3 organization which provides funding for scholarships. At NMT he established the C&E Miller Scholarship (in honor of his parents) and the M. Pat Miller Investment Club fund, which supports the NMT Student Investment Club. He served a term as a NMT Foundation Board Trustee and has been an extremely generous supporter of NMT and its students for years.

2023 49ers Parade

Grand Prize

Lunabotics & NMT's Office for Advancement



NMT Students



1st-STORM Force Outreach
2nd-Women's Soccer
3rd-Tennis Club

NMT Faculty/Staff



1st-Office for Student Life
2nd-Grand Marshal

Community Political



1st-Michael Hargather
2nd-JC Trujillo
3rd-Steven Rosas

Community Small



1st-Color Guard
2nd-William Torres
3rd-Chris Hidalgo

2023 49ers - Balloon Fiesta Eclipse Viewing



NMT Alumni eclipse watching from the ExxonMobil VIP Tent



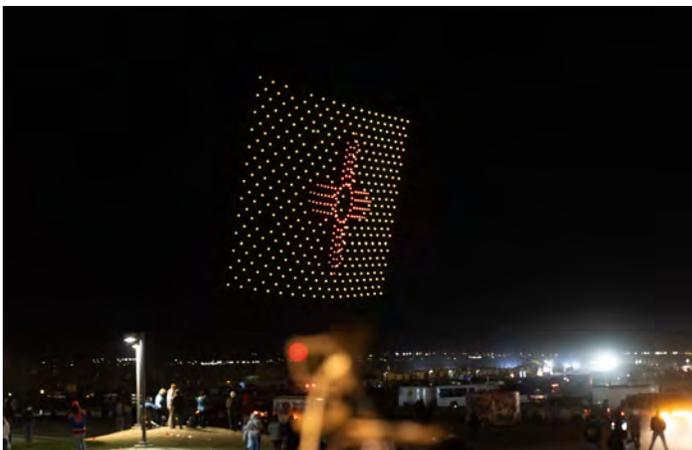
NMT Alumni enjoying breakfast provided by ExxonMobil



NMT Alumni using eclipse safety glasses to photograph the eclipse



NMT Alumni and family enjoying the solar eclipse



Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta Drone Show



Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta Mass Ascension

2023 49ers-25th & 50th Reunion Dinner



Jim Coleman



David Cahill, David Brock, Alma Lopez, Sue Byrd, Gene Byrd, Tom Wellems, Marilyn Powell, Jim Coleman, Randy Chavez, Julia Chavez



Diane Stevenson



Randy Chavez



Sue (Heinkein) Byrd



David Cahill



David Brock



Reminiscing at the Deju House



Alma Lopez



Marilyn Powell



Tom Wellems

Vista & Volcanoes Alumni Trip

San Pedro De Atacama, Northern Chile

January 8-16, 2024

Key Features

Valle de la Luna, Lago Miscanti-Miniques, Laguna Chaxa, El Tatio Geysers, Astronomy Sessions, Monjes de la Pacana and much more!

Estimated Costs:

Single Occupancy \$3,520

Double Occupancy \$2,810 (per person)

(The estimated cost listed is for fourteen participants; with less participants the cost will be slightly greater.)

PACKAGE INCLUDES:

1. Lodging for 8 nights
2. Tour Guide
3. Daily Transportation from hotel to group destinations
4. Daily Breakfasts
5. 4 Lunches
6. 1 Dinner
7. Welcome Reception
8. Location Entry Fees

How to Attend:

Pay a non-refundable deposit of \$500 per lodging room needed by December 4, 2023. Remaining balance will be due by December 20, 2023.

<https://advancement.nmt.edu/nmt-event-pages/2024-chile-alumni-tour>



Vista & Volcanoes Alumni Trip

San Pedro De Atacama, Northern Chile

January 8–16, 2024

Itinerary

<u>Date</u>	<u>Itinerary</u>	<u>Overnight</u>
8 January Monday	Assemble at CJC Calama airport , northern Chile. Sprinter minibus transport to San Pedro de Atacama. 19:00 Hours: Safety and Logistics Meeting	Diego de Almagro San Pedro de Atacama
9 January Tuesday	Morning: Valle de Arcoiris , (hiking, photography; petroglyphs) Includes breakfast. Evening: Star Party (“Tour Astronómico”) ! Includes a cocktail and astro-photographs.	Diego de Almagro
10 January Wednesday	Afternoon: Valle de la Luna ; hiking at various stops Includes a cocktails (!)	Diego de Almagro
11 January Thursday	Lagunas Altiplánicas: Miscanti and Miñiques (Short hike; photography); afternoon: Laguna Chaxa (photography, flamingos, short hike). Lunch included.	Diego de Almagro
12 January Friday	Very early start: Geisers del Tatio (short hikes; morning photography). Breakfast included.	Diego de Almagro
13 January Saturday	Morning: Vallecito (hikes, photography) Breakfast included.	Diego de Almagro
14 January Sunday	Lagunas Andinas and Monjes de la Pacana (hikes, photography). Breakfast and lunch included.	Diego de Almagro
15 January Monday	Día libre/Free day Evening: Farewell Dinner	Diego de Almagro
16 January Tuesday	Morning: transfer to CJC Calama airport	

Campus News



From left, Dr. Fred Phillips, Anne Tillery, Dr. Nelia Dunbar, and Dr. John Metesh, Montana state geologist and president of the Association of American State Geologists (AASG), at the Geological Society of America annual meeting in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Courtesy photo

A landmark report, developed by the New Mexico Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources, has received a prestigious national award. **The John C. Frye Memorial Award** was presented to the Bureau by the Geological Society of America and the Association of American State Geologists at its mid-year meeting held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, on Oct. 15.

The paper, "Bulletin 164 — Climate Change in New Mexico Over the Next 50 Years: Impacts on Water Resources", provides a scientific foundation for efforts to mitigate negative effects of changes to the state's climate and impacts on water resources over the next 50 years.

Three of the report's co-authors were on hand to accept the award. Dr. Nelia W. Dunbar, director and state geologist, New Mexico Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources; Dr. Fred M. Phillips, emeritus professor of hydrology at New Mexico Tech; and Anne C. Tillery, surface systems specialist at the U.S. Geological Survey New Mexico Water Science Center in Albuquerque. The three represented the publication's authors and contributors, all leading experts in climate and weather science.

<https://losalamosreporter.com/2023/10/25/new-mexico-water-impact-report-receives-top-national-honor/>



Dr. Michael Jackson

Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs

Nominated as a **2023 American Physical Society Fellow**: "APS is thrilled to recognize the individuals who have received the prestigious honor of APS Fellowship in 2023. Fellowship is bestowed on individuals who have made exceptional contributions to the physics enterprise."

Citation: For serving as a co-chair in the effort to develop and complete the inaugural version of the Effective Practices for Physics Programs (EP3) Guide that is actively aiding physics departments in their work to improve undergraduate physics education.

Nominated by: FED

<https://www.aps.org/programs/honors/fellowships/archive-all.cfm?initial=&year=2023>

2023 Macey Scholars

Four students will receive the university's highest academic honor

Although they come from different parts of the state, the four Macey scholars for 2023 have one thing in common – an exemplary dedication to learning, service and research as undergraduate students at New Mexico Tech. They all began their college careers during the earth-shattering COVID pandemic, and have managed to navigate their way to excellence.

The four scholars are James Angelos from Roswell (Chemical Engineering), Calyssa Huff from Albuquerque (Biology), Samantha (Lindholm) Knight from Albuquerque (Chemical Engineering), and Ruthie Mulvaney from Gallup (Biomedical Sciences with Chemistry Option).

The criteria for the Macey Scholars are exemplary accomplishments in the classroom and research laboratory, institutional service and other activities. Candidates must have at least a 3.4 GPA and a minimum of 30 hours coursework taken at New Mexico Tech. The award for a Macey Scholar is \$5,000 in scholarship money.

New Mexico Tech congratulates these young scientists for their accomplishments and wishes them all the very best in the future.



From upper left, clockwise: James Angelos, Samantha Knight, Ruthie Mulvaney and Calyssa Huff are the Macey Scholars for 2023. The Macey is the highest academic honor given to students at New Mexico Tech.

https://nmt.edu/news/2023/macey_scholars_2023.php?fbclid=IwAR0-uUkhym3it7kX067ap5kEPXcmuuBRlnrDBEPQA9Totjxg5CclwqVGZU4

Alumni News

BLM extends withdrawal for Langmuir Principal Research Site



The Bureau of Land Management today announced the extension for an additional 20 years of the withdrawal of 851.72 acres of National Forest System lands from location and entry under the United States mining laws, in order to continue the protection of the Langmuir Principal Research Site in Socorro County.

The withdrawal protects the Forest Service's investment at the site from potential earth disturbing activities associated with mining, and preserves the site's research focus. The Forest Service and the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology use the site to study thundercloud mechanisms, lightning, and precipitation. The location and the unique climate of the area make the site ideal for studying the physics of weather. Extension of this withdrawal will allow the Forest Service and the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology to continue to use this area to research, understand, and predict weather patterns throughout the southwest.

<https://www.blm.gov/press-release/blm-extends-withdrawal-langmuir-principal-research-site>

Brenden Herkenhoff Selected as "Innovator Under 25"



Albuquerque Business First has named its cohort of Innovators Under 25 for 2023, and Tech's Brenden Herkenhoff was recognized in the October 13-19, 2023 issue. Brenden is the CEO of RadiantAero.

As an undergraduate, Herkenhoff was part of a team that designed a hybrid fixed-wing/aquatic drone system, and from there, with the tutelage of Dr. Mostafa Hassanalian, he is now investigating use of taxidermied bird drones.

<https://www.nmt.edu/in-the-news/new-mexico-tech-doctoral-student-named-innovator-under-25.php>

Presidential Search

We are pleased to provide you with an update regarding the 2023 New Mexico Tech Presidential Search.



Our presidential search committee met several times over the past few months and, to date, we have received and reviewed the credentials of 72 applicants, representing a wide range of individuals within higher education and other leadership roles.

In late September and early October 2023, the search committee met to conduct preliminary screenings of prospective candidates and to identify individuals for first-round virtual interviews. The committee focused its review on the strongest applications and narrowed the group to 13 candidates. Over the week of October 16, 2023, the search committee then held first-round virtual interviews with those candidates.

Of the 13 candidates, seven individuals will be invited to a private dinner and a daylong in-person interview with the committee and co-chairs. The search committee will then choose the final top candidates to invite back to the NMT campus to meet with a wide range of NMT and Socorro community constituent groups. We are planning for the last week of November and first week of December 2023 for those meetings. After the on-campus meetings, the search committee will then recommend three finalists to the Board of Regents for further consideration.

The presidential search requires a thoughtful balance between transparency and confidentiality, including the individual candidates' names, until we reach the in-person campus meetings stage. We thank you for understanding that the best candidates require confidentiality and that search committee members have agreed to abide by this rule.

Thank you for your support as we move forward with this important search.

Regent Jerry A. Armijo
Regent David Lepre, Sr.

49ers Survey

We need your input to help make 49'ers at New Mexico Tech better than ever!

We want to know what your favorite events in the past were, what you might like to see in the future, and any other ideas you may have to make 49'ers the event you can't miss!

Please take a few minutes to fill out this survey. You can also email us at advancement@nmt.edu. We can't wait to hear from you!

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/88356PN>



NMT Business Directory

NMT announces our new Alumni Business Directory. This directory is provided as a service to encourage networking and the support of alumni-owned businesses as well as promote alumni-managed businesses.

If you are a graduate of NMT and would like your company or business to appear in the NMT Alumni Business Directory, please fill out our submission form, accessible through the QR code. For additional information about the business directory, email sandi.lucero@nmt.edu



https://www.nmt.edu/advancement/business_directory.php