New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology Alumni News

GoldPan

New Mexico Tech Fall 2000

Open Letter to Alumni from Dr. Daniel H. López

Dear New Mexico Tech Alumni,

New Mexico Tech will continue to be officially known as the "New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology."

After months of reviewing responses and opinions submitted by Tech alumni and other university constituents, the New Mexico Tech Board of Regents recently voted in a unanimous fashion to not proceed with plans to change the official name of the school.

The evidence garnered this year from public hearings, e-mail and other correspondence, and surveys taken of Tech alumni, as well as Tech faculty, students, and staff, clearly indicated that an overwhelming majority of these stake holders were vehemently opposed to changing the name of our university.

I must admit, at the start of the process, I had an open mind about the possible merits of modifying the name of our institution, in the hopes of furthering national recognition, attracting more students, and boosting enrollment in the face of increasing competition at both state and national levels.

But, after directly fielding the expressions of strong opposing views to changing the school's name, after carefully listening to hours of testimony, and after reading reams of letters concerning the proposed name change, I, too, came to fully support retaining our school's name and recommended to the Board of Regents that they opt to not change New Mexico Tech's name.

Therefore, I strongly support the formal action taken by the regents concerning the name change issue; and, I'd like to personally assure you that we will now concentrate our efforts on actively promoting and marketing New Mexico Tech, so that our school's name is more easily recognized among prospective students and employers throughout the state and nation.

You, as a New Mexico Tech alum, can assist us in advancing our mission by becoming "ambassadors" for your alma mater in your own community. In fact, the Tech Admission Office currently is bolstering a student recruitment program in which Tech alumni serve as representatives of our university at college fairs, receptions, and organizational meetings throughout the country.

Volunteer to help recruit students!

Attend a college fair or college night in your city. We will send you recruiting brochures and materials.

Call:
Admission Office
1-800-428-TECH
(8324)

As early as next year, New Mexico Tech will also embark on a capital campaign to acquire much-needed financial support for several important projects which will be initiated on campus. We'll also be needing your help in that respect, as well.

Thank you for taking time away from your busy schedule to express your concerns and opinions about the name change issue. As you can see, your university's governing board has indeed listened to prevailing sentiments and has acted accordingly.

Sincerely yours,

Dr. Daniel H. López

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Beginning with the next issue, ***Gold Pan*** will accept advertising. Our prices are $15 per column-inch, $175 for a half-page, or $300 for a full-page ad. We can either work with your camera-ready copy or create a layout from your copy.

To place an ad, or for more information, call (505) 835-5618, or e-mail *khedges@admin.nmt.edu*.

From the Editor:

A number of things are new with this issue of *Gold Pan*. We have a new look, but changes at the Office for Advancement lie deeper than that. Within the past year, we have also had a number of staff changes.

The current staff for the Office for Advancement is:

- Steve Bobinsky, Director of the Office for Advancement
- Kathy Hedges, *Gold Pan* Editor, Web Content Provider, Publications Writer
- Rose Baca, Coordinator of Marketing and Alumni Relations
- George Zamora, Newswriter and Photographer
- Stephany Moore, Grant Writer and College Surveys Coordinator
- Edie Steinhoff, Graphic Designer
- Jeanette Chavez, Administrative Secretary

Many of you alumni have known some or all of us for many years. Profiles of Steve Bobinsky and Rose Baca appear in this issue.

With the new staff, we are also trying to make some changes in the way *Gold Pan* is brought to you. We are initiating the project of providing *Gold Pan* online in .pdf format, at *www.nmt.edu/mainpage/alumni.html#gp*. In addition, we are making *Gold Pan* available by e-mail, through the website Egroups.com. You may subscribe to an electronic version of *Gold Pan* at *0*.

We also hope to bring you shorter *Gold Pans* more frequently. To accomplish this, we are starting to accept advertising, to help offset our costs.

We hope that this combination of sending *Gold Pan* electronically and accepting advertising will enable us to keep you better informed more frequently. You may also want to periodically visit our "Alumni and Friends" webpage at *www.nmt.edu/mainpage/alumni.html*.

Kathy Hedges

Gold Pan editor

Gold Pan is published by the Office for Advancement, New Mexico Tech, 801 Leroy Place, Socorro, NM 87801. *Gold Pan* is available on the web at *www.nmt.edu/mainpage/alumni/goldpan/*. New Mexico Tech is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution.

New Mexico Tech Alumni Association

President: Rose Baca (97, BS, technical communication)
In-state vice president: Dennis Walsh (97, BS, business administration)
Out-of-state vice president: John Dowdle (60, BS, math)
Secretary: Theresa Boracci (96, BGS)
Treasurer: Judy Provine Odinek (75, BS, biology)

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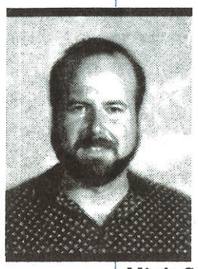
The Alumni Office congratulates Richard Ortega, who has moved to a job at the University of Texas at San Antonio.

Steve Bobinsky– Director of Advancement



A number of Tech alumni already know Steve Bobinsky, who joined the Advancement Office in late July. As an associate director of admission for the past year-and-a-half, he has organized "Winners in the World," the alumni volunteer program for recruiting new students. In the course of the program, Steve became acquainted with many alumni. Now, he's bringing a fresh and enthusiastic outlook to the Advancement Office.

"I loved working in Admission," he says. "Students of high caliber are attracted to Tech. Tech students are the ones who are going to 'rock our world.' By that, I mean that Tech graduates will create new technology that will change the way we do things, the way the development of cell phones and microwave ovens changed aspects of our daily life. Tech students are involved in projects will change society's behaviors."

Steve brings a background in business, marketing, and public relations to the Advancement Office. Before working at Tech's Admission Office, he worked at New Mexico Highlands University, where he received his bachelor of arts degree in business administration and marketing in 1988. During his six-year tenure as Student Recruitment Coordinator, new students increased by 26 percent, at a time when most universities saw declining enrollment numbers.

"Technology changes the way you do things," Steve says. "We hope alumni will accept more emphasis on electronic communication, rather than paper mailings."

Steve was born in Oak Park, Ill., although his family moved to Colorado while he was still small. He grew up in Littleton, Colo., where he graduated from Littleton High School. He attended Snow College, a junior college in Utah, and transferred to Highlands, where he finished his bachelor's degree in 1988. He played football at both colleges and coached it at Highlands for three seasons.

"I think the exciting thing about New Mexico Tech is the 'Wow' factor," Steve says. "When you hear about some of the research that students and faculty are involved in you just have to say 'Wow.' I think the most exciting part of this job will be exposing the West's best-kept secret."

Steve and his wife Brenda live in Los Lunas with their three daughters, Gabrielle, 7; Andrelle, 4; and Joelle, 2. Brenda teaches science at the Montessori School of the Rio Grande in Albuquerque, which their two oldest daughters attend. She is also a student in Tech's Master of Science Teaching program.

Commencement 2000

At commencement ceremonies on May 13, New Mexico Tech presented 245 bachelor's, master's, and Ph.D. degrees, including two to honorary degree recipients.

An honorary doctorate of petroleum engineering was presented to Robert O. Anderson, longtime head of ARCO and well-known oil businessman from Roswell, N. M. Jonathan Spargo, a Socorro resident who has been active in volunteer work at Etscorn Campus Observatory, was honored with a master's degree in astronomical instrumentation. *(See related article on page 8.)*

The New Mexico Tech Alumni Association presented two Distinguished Achievement Awards to alumni. Dr. Walter Fisher, who earned his master's and Ph.D. degrees at New Mexico Tech in metallurgy, was selected for the award for his achievements as a professor at the University of Texas at El Paso. David Matter, a member of the Class of 1950 attending his 50th reunion, was honored for his career in metallurgy. *(See related articles on pages 7 and 9.)*

The university honored Dr. Paul Krehbiel, professor of physics, as its Distinguished Researcher. Krehbiel has studied thunderstorm electrification and developed instruments for that purpose, including a new Lightning Mapping Array. Dr. Deidre Hirschfeld, associate professor of materials engineering, was named recipient of the Distinguished Teaching Award, *(Commencement 2000 continued on page 4.)*

Rose Baca – Coordinator of Alumni Relations

Rose Baca is new to the Advancement Office, but she's no stranger to Tech alumni. She's been around Tech one way or another since 1985.

Rose is a Socorro native and a graduate of Socorro High School. She started working at Tech in 1985, first in the Campus Police Office, then for Student Services, and then for Registrar's. One of her chief achievements at Registrar's was coordinating Tech's Community College, which she did from 1990 to 1994. Rose initiated Kids' Kollege, a summer program for youth. (Socorro Consolidated Schools later incorporated Kids' Kollege into their summer school program.)

"When I worked at the Registrar's Office, I became good friends with many Tech students," recalls Rose. "I registered them and saw them graduate, and many of them said to me, 'Go to college. You can do it.' They influenced me to become a Tech student myself." (Many Tech students who met Rose during this time probably remember her as Rose Salazar.)

Rose earned her degree in technical communication in 1997. "I picked TC because I enjoy writing. TC is a diverse field — you get to deal with a lot of different things."

After spending a semester as department secretary to the Tech Computer Center, Rose went to Los Alamos to work as a technical writer and editor for International Technology Corp., a contractor with Los Alamos National Laboratory. In mid-1998, she moved back to Socorro. She worked at the Financial Aid Office from July 1998 until February of 2000, when she moved to her new job at the Advancement Office.

"One of the most enjoyable things I've done since starting here was organizing the Golden Reunion for the Class of 1950," Rose says. "Meeting the alums, hearing their stories, and hearing about old Tech traditions was fascinating. They were so excited to see each other, and we all had a wonderful time."

As for plans for the future, Rose says, "I want to increase communication between Tech and alumni and among alumni themselves. I want to bring back some traditions. This year's 49ers is meant to be a return to some of the fun traditions of the past. Another thing I'd like to start is an online message board for alumni, so they can talk to each other about Tech events they are attending and other things. I would also like to start a mentorship program in which alumni mentor science-oriented high school students in their communities and are recognized for it. I see this as a way for alumni to give back what they have been fortunate enough to receive"

Rose has two daughters: Rudi Salazar, 13, and Rebeca Salazar, 8. She is also the stepmother of two current Tech employees. "I helped raised Roslynn Ulibarri, who works in the Admission Office and Robert Salazar, who works at the Physical Plant."

Commencement 2000 (cont.)

based on letters of recommendation from students. A new award, the Students' Choice Award, was presented to Dr. George Cunningham, associate professor of electrical engineering, for his commitment to students and to excellence.

The highest award to a graduate student went to Dr. Alison Peck, who received her Ph.D. in astrophysics. Peck finished her doctoral work in December 1999, and she is a postdoctoral fellow at the Max Plank Institute for Radio Astronomy in Germany.

This was the second Founder's Award for Peck, who also received the award when she graduated with her master's degree in 1997. Her first Founder's Award was based primarily on her active leadership of the Graduate Students Association. Her second Founder's Award was driven by her outstanding research, including three high-quality publications in the *Astrophysical Journal* which arose out of her doctoral research.

Peck has been doing research on compact symmetric objects, which are young radio galaxies which emit jets perpendicular to the observer's line of sight. The small linear sizes of these objects make them valuable for studies of both the evolution of radio galaxies and testing unified schemes for active galactic nuclei.

Recently, Peck was one of the discoverers of the third most luminous megamaser discovered to date. This megamaser became detectable when it "flared" in conjunction with the host radio galaxy. These observations were part of her research at the Max Plank Institute for Radio Astronomy in Bonn, Germany, where she has accepted a two-year postdoctoral research fellowship.

Peck was an active member of New Mexico Tech's Strategic Planning Committee in 1998. She has twice been the recipient of the Physics Department's Leslie Fallon award for the department's Outstanding Physics Teaching Assistant. She has been active in recruiting graduate students for New Mexico Tech.

Peck is the daughter of Dr. Elizabeth Peck of Kearney, Nebraska, and Dr. Dwight Peck of Bassins, Switzerland. Peck received her bachelor's degree from the University of Nebraska at Kearney with a double major in physics and math.

Two of the top awards to undergraduates, the Brown Award and Cramer Award, went to Julie Ann Wiens. Wiens also received a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering with high honors. She was chosen for the Brown Award by the faculty on the basis of her scholarship, leadership, and conduct. The Cramer Award for the woman engineering student who excels in scholarship was presented to her on the basis of her outstanding grades.

Wiens has received a number of academic honors and awards, including a scholarship from the American Association of University Women and runner-up position as Engineering Student of the Year for 2000. She has been active in many campus activities and organizations.

Wiens and her husband Kyle, who received a master's degree in physics, are moving to Ft. Collins., Colo., where he will enter a Ph.D. program.

The Cramer Award for the male engineering student with the highest academic achievement was given to two outstanding students who both had perfect 4.0 grade point averages, Michael Davis and Timothy Sande.

Davis, who had been named "Engineering Student of the Year" by the faculty in March, received a bachelor's degree in with highest honors in electrical engineering and is going to a job at Hewlett-Packard in Ft. Collins., Colo., where he held an internship last summer.

Sande, who earned his degree with highest honors in petroleum engineering, had been home-schooled in Kalama, Wash., and had earned an associate's degree in geology at Lower Columbia College. In addition to his regular classwork, Sande has worked for New Mexico Tech's petroleum engineering department on a U. S. Department of Energy research project which involves investigating natural fractures present in gas formations throughout northwest New Mexico's San Juan Basin, the nation's second largest gas-producing area. Sande has also been an instructor in a reservoir engineering laboratory at the university.

Mark Stanley was named recipient of the Langmuir Award, given to a graduate student for a recent outstanding publication. Stanley, who earned a Ph.D. in atmospheric physics, received his award for being first author on the paper "High speed video of initial sprite development," published in *Geophysical Research Letters* in October 1999.

Alumni Prominent in Rugby Victory over Welsh

Dave Wheelock, Tech rugby coach

During finals week this past spring semester, the Bethesda Rugby Club of Wales set up camp in Socorro, intent on avenging a heralded Tech victory on their own field in northern Wales in 1998. The timing created a "sticky wicket," since more than half of Tech's student players were caught up in the chaos of final exams.

Enter "the Ancestors," New Mexico Tech's alumni rugby players, who arrived from Santa Fe, Los Alamos, and Albuquerque. Nine in all, these Tech grads now play rugby for club "sides" in their respective home towns, and returned to Socorro to defend the Institute's honor.

On the evening of Tuesday, May 9, the New Mexico Tech men's rugby club once again defied the odds against a well-honed team of rugby players from a land where that game is king, claiming a 19-12 victory. Of the 20 Tech men who appeared in the match, nine were Tech alumni, and one, Dr. Clint Richardson, is a Tech professor. The "Ancestor" teams and players are as follows:

Santa Fe Santos: Marcos Barela, Sean French, James Napier, James Rubin, James Santo, Ron Trueblood

Albuquerque Brujos: John Ellis, Toban Robledo, Dr. Clint "Doc" Richardson, *chair, Mineral & Environmental Engineering Department;* Bill Tafoya, Socorro, *at large.*

The Class of 1950: 50th Reunion

*(Golden Reunion attendees in **boldface**)*

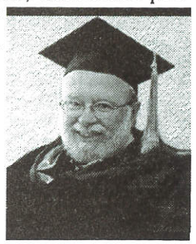
STANDING (left-right): **Cecil Kerley**, John McCaslin, Joe Bartol, **Roger Richman**, Kenny Reim, Gil Noland, Clarence "Mo" Morrison, Bob Ellingsen, Fred Giese, Darwin "Greg" Gregory, Bob Slingerland, Tom Perrott, **Vic Hansen, Don Richter, Dean Beckerdite**, Tony Blass, Chet Rachwal, **Alan Cheetham, Dave Matter**, Charlie Fleming, Ted "Gromyko" Szmyd, Bill Adkins, Chet Green, George Brewer, **Jack Hunt, Ernie Jonas**. *MIDDLE ROW (left-right):* Lou Regotti, **John Duncan**, Ev Ramsey, Elwood "Woody" Eutermoser, Mrs. Lillian Herkenhoff (retiring supervisor of dining/residence halls), Joel Kobelin, **Ray Senn**. *FRONT ROW (left-right):* Frank Galli, Dick Witman, John Yuronka, Jim Bell, Dick Larson, Jim Doyle. *NOT SHOWN:* Dick Anderson, Milt Barber, Bill Donovan, Jim Doherty, Jim Doty, Ed Hanson, Ken Hill, **Bob Lane**, Marv Napack, Ron Samples, Paul Stevens, Dick Waller.

At our commencement on Friday, May 26, 1950, 47 of us received Bachelor of Science degrees: two in chemistry, six in geology, two in geophysics, nine in metallurgical engineering, 20 in mining engineering, seven in petroleum engineering, and one in physics. Three received Bachelor of Engineering degrees in geology. In addition, an honorary Doctor of Science degree was awarded to a physicist, Edward U. Condon, from the University of Iowa. A physicist, Dr. Irving Langmuir delivered the commencement address.

***Back Row** (left-right):* Alan Cheetham, Dave Matter, Dean Beckerdite, Vic Hansen, Roger Richman, Jack Hunt, John Duncan, Don Richter. ***Front Row** (left-right):* Ray Senn, Cecil Kerley, Ernie Jonas, Bob Lane. *Photographed at the Val Verde Hotel, Socorro, May 12, 2000, by Thames Wedgewood*

Cunningham Is First Recipient of Students' Choice Award

New Mexico Tech initiated the new Students' Choice Award at this year's Commencement and selected Dr. George A. Cunningham III, associate professor of electrical engineering, as recipient.



The Student Association selected Cunningham for the award based on a poll of the student body because of the excellence of his teaching, both in the classroom and in one-on-one lab and study sessions. Students consistently described him as being easy to approach and talk to.

James Fox, the student who chaired the selection committee, said, "Dr. Cunningham will stop whatever he is doing to speak with a student about anything. He makes us feel welcome, and students always appreciate being made to feel welcome by our professors."

Cunningham came to New Mexico Tech in 1989, when the university was starting its electrical engineering program. He says, "When the department started, we had a vision of providing a quality engineering education to New Mexico students. We wanted our graduates to be able to compete with graduates from the best schools on Earth. Also, we did not mean to limit this experience to the super achievers — we expected, and continue to expect, the best from everyone, but we also try to help everyone through."

"This year," Cunningham adds, "for the second time in a row, the EE Department had the largest graduating class of any department at Tech, and over two-thirds of our students graduated with honors. Our graduates are very successful in the working world, largely, I think, because of the emphasis on hands-on education here at Tech."

Cunningham says he particularly identifies with students who come from small towns. "I grew up in West Virginia, a poor, rural state with many isolated areas. I was blessed to get a very high quality education at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio. I know firsthand how difficult it is to succeed in college when you have come from a rural background. Thus, some of the students I am proudest of at Tech came from small New Mexico towns like Ojo Caliente, Mora, and Datil, and they have gone on to successful careers as engineers."

Cunningham's career as an engineer has included a number of twists and turns. After graduating from Case Western, he worked for Boeing Aircraft for a few years and then became an independent certified public accountant. Next, he worked for the City of Seattle, starting as a management analyst and ending as the city's senior automotive engineer. He then returned to school at the University of Washington, where he got a master's degree in mathematics and a Ph.D. in electrical engineering. Before coming to New Mexico Tech, he taught at the University of North Florida and Harvey Mudd College.

"An important experience that has shaped my thinking," Cunningham adds, "is working for Nokia Mobile Phones, while on leave from Tech. In the past dozen years, Nokia has gone from being a small company on the banks of the Nokia River in Finland to the world's largest cell phone company with facilities all over the world, employing people of all nationalities. My experiences at Nokia certainly reinforced my view that good people come from everywhere. Of course, 33 years in a wheelchair has also been wonderful for broadening my perspective on some of life's little problems and the treatment of minorities."

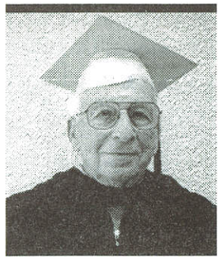
On July 7 in San Diego, Cunningham married Bhavna Mehta, a computer scientist who has been working at Nokia. Cunningham is the son of George A. Cunningham, Jr., who resides in Floral City, Fla., and Port Angeles, Wash..

Matter Receives Distinguished Achievement Award

The New Mexico Tech Alumni Association presented its Distinguished Achievement Award to David Matter, a 1950 graduate with a degree in metallurgy. After receiving his degree, Matter went on to a distinguished career in metallurgy. After six years in the manufacturing research department of International Harvester Company in Chicago, Dave went to work in 1956 for Ohio Ferro-Alloys Corporation in Canton, Ohio, where he served as manager of the foundry service, vice president for sales, and until his retirement in 1992, senior vice president and president of a subsidiary engineering company.

For his technical contributions to metallurgy, Dave was honored in 1976 with the highest award of the American Foundrymen's Society, the Penton Gold Medal, "for outstanding technical contributions to the Industry, especially in the fields of gray and ductile iron metallurgy and related production practices." The Society also made Dave an honorary Life Member and presented him with an Award of Scientific Merit in 1966.

Throughout his career, Matter was active in technical society affairs, serving on, and frequently chairing, committees involved in setting standards for the production and use of metals. In addition to the American Foundrymen's Society, these included the American Society for Metals, the Society of Automotive Engineers, the American Society for Testing and Materials, and the Ductile Iron Society. In addition to his service on behalf of technical standards, Matter was ac-



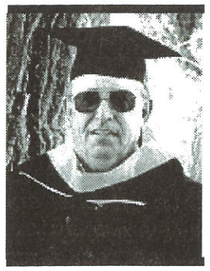
tive in education, serving on the board of directors of the Foundry Educational Foundation and chairman of its college evaluation and scholarship committees.

Dave came to the New Mexico School of Mines a decorated veteran of World War II, his decorations including the Belgian Croix de Guerre. At Tech, he was very active in student affairs, serving on the student council and on the editorial staffs on the *Porphyry* yearbook and the *Gold Pan* student newspaper, and in intramural athletics.

Dave and his wife Pat reside in Kernersville, N.C., where they are retired.

Jon Spargo Honored for Volunteerism

Anyone who has gone up to Etscorn Campus Observatory (ECO) in the past several years, whether to view Comet Hale-Bopp, check out the planets during the monthly star party, or see the array of telescopes assembled for the Enchanted Skies Star Party, has probably heard an ebullient voice in the darkness, expounding on the night sky to visitors. Chances are the voice belonged to Jon Spargo, an avid amateur astronomer whose volunteer activities at ECO have made it one of New Mexico Tech's premiere outreach facilities for bringing science to the public.



At Commencement on May 13, New Mexico Tech thanked Spargo by presenting him with an honorary degree: a master's in astronomical instrumentation. It is the most recent of several honors received by a man whose volunteer activities seem to reach almost every corner of the Socorro community.

Spargo is a founding member and past president of the Socorro Train Gang, the railroad enthusiasts who display model trains in the Hammel Museum. He is an active member of the Socorro Amateur Radio Association and the Socorro County Historical Society. He is vice president and safety officer of the New Mexico Steam Locomotive and Railroad Historical Society, whose current project is restoring to operation a Santa Fe Railroad locomotive located in Albuquerque. In 1997, Spargo was named the Socorro County Chamber of Commerce Man of the Year. In 1998, he was inducted into Sigma Pi Sigma, a national honorary society of the Society of Physics Students. But it is his work with ECO that brought him the honor from Tech.

Spargo was the driving force in acquiring a variety of telescopes, selecting a location for them, and getting ECO built, maintained, and continuously operated. He is also one of the founders and key organizers of the annual Enchanted Skies Star Party, which brings amateur astronomers from around the country to Socorro every fall.

Etscorn Campus Observatory got its start in 1991, when Spargo approached the New Mexico Tech Astronomy Club, looking for a home for a 6-inch telescope. Over the next couple of years, driven mostly by Spargo's efforts, an observatory site was found, blueprints were developed, costs were estimated, and two more telescopes needing homes were found. All that was lacking was the money to build the building. Jon conferred with Dr. Frank Etscorn, a New Mexico Tech psychology professor, amateur astronomer, and inventor of the nicotine patch.

"Then Frank's ship came in," recalls Spargo. "He got a check for the nicotine patch, and he said, 'Go build your observatory, folks.'" In 1993, the observatory was dedicated to Etscorn.

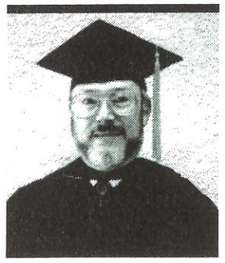
Currently, the observatory houses three telescopes: a 20-inch Dobsonian on long-term loan from astronomy club member Ken Mason; a Celestron 14-inch belonging to the Physics Department, and the original six-inch. ECO also owns a 25-inch telescope waiting for a home, and two domes, salvaged from White Sands Missile Range, waiting to house telescopes.

The Enchanted Skies Star Party (ESSP), which began in 1994, was also, in part, the brainchild of Jon Spargo. ESSP is unique among the many star parties held by amateur astronomers nationwide in that it combines the interests of professional astronomers at Tech and NRAO and students at Tech with those of amateur astronomers from around the country. Every fall, during the new moon that falls in late September or early October, amateur astronomers from around the country converge on ECO for the four-day event. In addition, other visitors come throughout the year, attracted by what they've heard of Socorro's dark skies.

Spargo is NRAO's Safety Officer and also operates his own private consulting business: Stellar Safety Services, which performs safety audits and program evaluations. His company has a web page at ***www.sdc.org/~kc5ntw***. He also holds an appointment as an adjunct research scientist in Tech's Research and Economic Development Division.

Walter Fisher Receives Distinguished Achievement Award

The New Mexico Tech Alumni Association presented its Distinguished Achievement Award to Dr. Walter W. Fisher, a professor of materials and metallurgical engineering at the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP). Fisher was presented his award for developing programs to improve retention at UTEP's College of Engineering.



"Like most large universities, we are concerned about our dropout rate," Fisher says. "I helped to develop the Entering Students Program in the College of Engineering, to help students better prepare to go into engineering disciplines. I've been working on the program since 1989, and it was implemented fully in 1998. Preliminary results are very encouraging."

Fisher credits his experiences at New Mexico Tech as an influence on his educational philosophy. "We were one big learning community," he says, and he wanted to encourage that atmosphere at UTEP.

"I know that atmosphere still exists, because my daughter, Pamela, was a student at New Mexico Tech in the early 1990s," says Fisher. Pamela, who earned her bachelor's degree in metallurgical engineering in 1993, now works for Intel in Hillsboro, Wash. She is married to a fellow Tech graduate, Andrew Calkins, who got his degree in technical communication in 1992.

Walter Fisher earned both of his graduate degrees at New Mexico Tech: a master's in metallurgical engineering in 1967 and a Ph.D. in chemical metallurgy in 1970. These followed a bachelor's degree in metallurgical engineering from the University of Utah, which he received in 1964. He has taught at UTEP since 1978. From 1981 to 1984, he chaired the Department of Metallurgical and Materials Engineering, and from 1984 to 1988, he was the university's assistant dean of engineering.

For his work in improving teaching and retention, Dr. Fisher received the 1990 Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching, which is given to a top professor in the University of Texas system. He has also received UTEP'S 1999 Distinguished Achievement Award for Teaching Excellence, as well as other teaching awards.

Fisher was born and raised in Roswell, and is a 1959 graduate of Roswell High School. His wife, Vicki, is also a Roswell native. In addition to their daughter, Pamela, they have a son, Michael, who got his degree in psychology and counseling and is a counselor and English teacher at Cathedral High School in El Paso. He is studying for a Ph.D. in education.

TECHNOTES

The latest news stories on New Mexico Tech are posted at ***www.nmt.edu/mainpage/news***. If you do not have web access and would like us to send you a printed copy of any of these news stories, contact Kathy Hedges at **(505) 835-5618**, or ***khedges@admin.nmt.edu***. Here are our recent headlines:

Tech Ranked 20th by *Kiplinger's* — New Mexico Tech is listed as the 20th best buy among the nation's public colleges and universities in the October issue of *Kiplinger's* magazine.

Tech Reclassfied in Carnegie Foundation — "Our being included among the institutions which make up this particular category is a very significant designation for our university," said New Mexico Tech President Daniel H. López.

Blunt Lightning Rods Are Better — Physics professor emeritus C. B. Moore and fellow Tech researchers made headlines in June for research showing that blunt-tipped lightning rods are more effective than traditional sharp-pointed rods.

López Receives Public Service Award — Dr. Daniel H. López, president of New Mexico Tech, was one of this year's 12 recipients of the notable 31st Annual New Mexico Distinguished Public Service Awards.

Bureau Receives NASA Award — A research group from the New Mexico Bureau of Mines and Mineral Resources received NASA's Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center Group Achievement Award for training prospective astronauts to conduct geophysical field studies.

Tech Graduate Programs Rank Highly — New Mexico Tech's graduate programs in hydrology and petroleum engineering have been rated among the best in the nation by *U.S. News & World Report.*

Rogelj Wins DOE Award — New Mexico Tech biology professor Snezna Rogelj was honored with the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Defense Programs Early Career Scientist and Engineer Award in November 1999.

Tech Robots Score Well — New Mexico Tech electrical engineering students scored well at the Seventh Annual Fire-Fighting Home Robot Contest, held in Hartford, Conn., last April.

Math Team Performs Well in National Contest — A team of New Mexico Tech students bested more than 300 other teams during the 60th Annual William Lowell Putnam Mathematical Competition, held in December 1999.

CS Team Wins Programming Honors — A team of New Mexico Tech seniors majoring in computer science took top honors at the Sixteenth Annual Fort Lewis College Computer Programming Contest in Durango, Colo. in March.

New Appointments and Faculty

Dr. Peter F. Gerity was named vice president for academic affairs at New Mexico Tech. **Dr. Carl Popp**, who had served in that position since 1985, returned to being a full-time chemistry professor.

Dr. Peter A. Scholle has been appointed director of the New Mexico Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources (NMBG&MR) and state geologist.

Dr. Matt Silva (75, BS, basic studies; 84, MS, petroleum engr.) was appointed director of New Mexico Tech's Environmental Evaluation Group (EEG) in Albuquerque.

Dr. Ken Eack (91, BS, physics) has returned to New Mexico Tech as an assistant professor of physics and researcher at Langmuir Laboratory for Atmospheric Research.

People You Know September 1999 to June 2000

1930s

Kenneth C. Bayer (38, BS, geological engr.) reports that he has been married 57 years, as of Dec. 5, 1999. He retired in December 1988 after 25 years with the oil industry and 25 years with the federal government, the latter with the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, NOAA, and the U. S. Geological Survey.

Hart C. Gleason (39, BS, geologic engr. [petroleum option]) reports that he is still working! He heads his own consulting company, Gleason Engineering, in Placerville, Colo. He consults on redesign and installation of individual septic systems and does pre-purchase inspections on residences.

1950s

Dr. Michael Bikerman (56, BS, geology) reports, "After 33 years at the University of Pittsburgh, I am now emeritus. At Pitt, I taught a variety of undergraduate and graduate classes ranging from the large non-major classes Rocks for Jocks and the Geology of National Parks through physical and historical geology (the latter normally shared with our paleontologist) to geochemistry and the graduate isotope geology class. My research was K-Ar and other techniques dating largely in the Mogollon-Datil volcanics early on, and in kimberlites and manganese ores more recently.

"In September 2000, I was academic dean for the Fall 2000 voyage of 'Semester at Sea.' This position required me to select about 26 faculty from 20 or so disciplines who will teach on board the *SS Universe Explorer*. This trip around the world attracts over 600 undergraduate students from a large number of colleges and universities around the United States and abroad. They are joined by 50 or so adult passengers who can also choose from the 70 different classes offered each semester. Unfortunately for scientists and engineers, the bulk of the classes are in business and liberal arts. It is a good way to take a semester to get many of those credits embellished through the around the world voyage!

"My wife, Viola, and I were married in Albuquerque right after my graduation in 1956. We have three children. Jennifer, our first-born, lives in Pittsburgh with her husband and their son and daughter. David, our only son, is a mining engineer and house restorer living in Connecticut with his wife and baby son. Our youngest, Tania, does computer software work in Pittsburgh and loves to travel."

Morris T. Worley (58, BS, mining engr.) writes, "I have retired from the mining industry after 45 years. I now work for Joint Development Associates International, Inc. (JDA) as vice president, for development. JDA is a non-profit voluntary corporation that provides community development services and humanitarian aid to the citizens of the Republic of Uzbekistan. We operate a computer training center, a chalk manufacturing facility, a tile plant, and a poultry farm project. We have upgraded municipal water supplies, improved housing for residents of a leprosy colony, and distributed clothing and medical supplies throughout the country.

"My wife, Sue, and I have relocated to our hometown of Carlsbad and will manage the stateside support activities of the company from our home office. We look forward to a visit to the Tech campus, something we have not been able to do for many years."

1960s

John C. Vigil (61, BS, physics) retired from Los Alamos National Laboratory in April 1999. John and his wife Elizabeth moved to Albuquerque to be nearer to three children and one grandchild.

John reports, "Three of our children — Anna, Charles and Valerie — live in Albuquerque. Charles and his wife Christina have a daughter named Catherine. Our daughters Anna and Valerie are single. Anna is a neurologist, and Charles and Valerie are lawyers. Our fourth – Dennis — lives in Ames, Iowa, where he is a chemical engineer. He and his wife Susan have two sons, Daniel and David."

Ray Laxson (62, BS, petroleum engr.) left PG&E-Texas last year after 30 years in the natural gas transmission business to devote full time to his ranching operations in Spring Branch, Texas. In addition to his cattle operation, he is also a scientific whitetail deer breeder for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept.

Dr. Jeff Cooke (63, BS, physics) completed a Ph.D. in November 1999 at Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane, Australia. He is employed as a senior lecturer (assistant professor) at Central Queensland University in the School of Mathematical & Decision Sciences in the Faculty of Informatics and Communication.

Adrian P. Visocky (64, MS, hydrology) writes "After receiving my master's degree, I went to work for the Illinois State Water Survey in Champaign and, after 34 years with that agency, took an early retirement in July 1998. Now my wife, Josie (the former Josie Baca of Socorro), and I are thoroughly enjoying retirement, especially now that we have our first grandchild to play with. Last year was an outstanding one for us in that we had three marriages and the birth of a grandson, Aidan! All four of our children are now married, and Jo and I can relax this year and enjoy our family as never before."

Barney P. Popkin (attended 1964-65) is a resources management consultant, working in the United States and internationally from his home office in San Francisco. Consequently, he speaks snippets of several African, Asian, European, and Middle Eastern languages. In addition to attending New Mexico Tech, Barney was educated at New York University, West Texas State Univer-

sity, University of Arizona, and University of California (Berkeley).

Douglas E. Smith (66, BS, basic sciences) is a quality systems manager for Demmer Corporation in Lansing, Mich. He lives in Charlotte, Mich.

Rodney M. Armstrong (67, BS, geophysics) has moved to Grand Junction, Colo., with his wife and started a chartered flying business.

Gary Plisga (69, BS, petroleum engr.) is retired and living in Albuquerque.

1970s

Gowri S. Kailas (71, MS, mining engr.) has started up a commercial real estate business in New Orleans. He also owns and manages about 3.6 million square feet of commercial real estate, including a super regional mall, strip mall shopping centers, and commercial office buildings. Kailas is also developing an Embassy Suites Hotel.

Paul Shoemaker (71, BS, physics) has been appointed overall manager of Sandia National Laboratories' operation in Carlsbad. He and his wife, Marissa, have moved to Carlsbad, where they have also recently welcomed Machaon Elijah Shoemaker into their family. Machaon was born on Dec. 14, 1999, and was adopted by Paul and Marissa on May 2, 2000.

Roger Freidline (72, BS, geophysics) has joined Providence Technologies, Inc., as an owner, partner, and executive vice president. He was senior vice president of exploration at Costilla Energy, Midland, Texas, prior to joining Providence.

Friedline's new responsibilities include delivering state-of-the-art geoscientific service and technology to Providence partners, customers, and clients. In addition to his degree from New Mexico Tech, he holds a master's degree in geophysics from the University of Utah.

Over a distinguished 25-year career, Freidline has served as vice president of geophysics for Heritage Resources; geophysical manager of GMW Oil Co.; district geologist for Hondo Oil & Gas; and geophysicist with Forest Oil Co. and Unocal. He is a member of the Society of Exploration Geophysicists, the American Association of Petroleum Geologists, the Permian Basin Geophysical Society, and the West Texas Geological Society.

William Marble (72, BS, petroleum engr.) writes, "I have been with Hallwood Energy Corp. since 1984 in Dallas and Denver, and moved to Houston on November 1, 1999, to open an office for Hallwood. As vice president of Business Development, I am responsible for generating new contacts and opportunities in oil and gas acquisitions and exploration for Hallwood. Our focus areas are South Texas, Louisiana, New Mexico, and Colorado."

Robert Bruce Kennedy (73, BS, mining engr.) has been working for Phelps Dodge for the last 10 years, the last two in Chile, as manager of the Candelaria Mine. His current duties sometimes take him to Brazil and Peru, but, he adds, that he gets home to the United States at least once a year.

"I am living in Chile with my wife, Linda, and two teenage girls, Kelly and Katelyn. My first daughter, Julia, is living in Las Vegas, Nev. with my granddaughter, Bailey."

Parkorn Suwanich (74, BS, geology; 92, MS, geology) is a lecturer at Mahidol University, Thailand.

Victor Polyak (78, BS, geology) recently married Paula Provencio (electron microscopist for Sandia National Laboratories) and moved to Albuquerque where he is currently an adjunct assistant professor in the Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences at the University of New Mexico.

Victor was one of the co-authors, along with **Bill McIntosh** (90, Ph.D., geology) of the Bureau, of an article in *Science*, vol. 279, pp. 1919-1922 (Spring of 1998). The article was the first ever to report the absolute age of a limestone cave. It was titled "Age and Origin of Carlsbad Cavern and Related Caves from 40Ar/39Ar of Alunite".

Terry Pafford (79, BS, petroleum engr.) worked for ARCO for 14 years. Since leaving there seven years ago, he has been production manager for several independent oil producers in Midland, Texas. He and his wife Sherry have been married for almost 20 years. They have a 13-year-old son, Andrew, whom they home school.

Robert I. Pennington (79, BS, environmental engr.) is now vice president of Phelps Dodge Tyrone, Inc., and will remain general manager of the facility as well. He has worked there since 1986.

1980s

Dr. Kay (Kuhlemeier) Bjornen (80, BS, chemistry) writes, "Many of my friends will be glad to know that I did eventually finish my Ph.D. in analytical chemistry at the University of Oklahoma. After (too) many years slaving in the halls of academia, though, an opportunity came up with the lubricants R&D group of Conoco. I took the job last September and my primary responsibilities are developing automatic transmission fluids and gear oils. The job is a great challenge largely because it does not deal much with chemistry. It does let me utilize a lot of the petroleum coursework I had at Tech as well as my early industrial experience and I am really enjoying it.

"Kevin and I have two sons, Paul Eric, 12, and Joel Daniel, 4. We love outdoor activities and are looking forward to warmer weather when we can enjoy the birdwatching and camping on the lakes nearby. I would love to hear from anyone who would like to get in touch. My e-mail address: *kkpjbj@poncacity.net*."

Julie (Gaynor) Hagenbuch (80, BS, geophysics) is an interior decorator and real estate agent in Steamboat Springs, Colo. After a career in geophysics with Atlantic Richfield, Julie moved to Steamboat Springs. She has lived there for 15 years and been married for 12 years. She can be reached via e-mail at *walldes@cmn.net* or on the web: *www.walldesigners.com*.

Philip Carpenter (81, MS, geophysics; 84, Ph.D., geoscience) and his wife Madaline adopted their first child, Lydia Rose, in Nauchang, China, in September 1998. The family live in Sycamore, Ill.

Art Johnston (81, BS, metallurgical engr.) recently changed jobs. He is now working as a maintenance engineer at the Kennecott Copper Company smelter in Salt Lake City, Utah.

John Mastor (81, BS, mining engr.) brought us up-to-date on his doings. "I've moved back to New Mexico for the third time after traveling the world in the minerals exploration business. While we were stationed in Carson City, Nev., my wife, Sandy, gave birth to our two lovely daughters Carly Clementyn (now 8) and Maureen Agnes (now 6). With the recent addition of Larry, the chocolate miniature poodle, we truly have the Three Stooges domiciled at NewMastorCo.

"Working for Boart Longyear for over 15 years took us to many exotic places both foreign and domestic. I was manager of their Nevada operation during the gold boom of the early-mid 90s, when the company was the largest core drilling contractor in the state. An 18-month stint in Salt Lake City as U.S. Core Drilling Manager was followed by almost two years as manager of their Indonesia operation. We had rigs strewn from Sumatra to Irian Jaya with all points in between. My favorite to visit were the geothermal rigs on Bali. (Oh Dad do we have to go to Bali again ?!?) No, never drilled Bre-X; best job we never got!

"We're now in Albuquerque and hope to stay for a while enjoying the green chile and great lifestyle. I am working for Baroid Industrial Drilling Products (a Halliburton Company) selling to and servicing the water well, monitor well and minerals industries. Sandy works full time chasing after the Three Stooges (Carly, Moe, and Larry) and providing a wonderful home to us all."

Michael Bryan (82, BS, petroleum engr.) is regional environmental manager for Tosco Corporation. His responsibilities include environmental compliance and remediation for all of the 76 service stations and Circle K Stores in southern California and Hawaii. He and his wife Lois live in Brea, Calif. with their two children, Jenna (8) and James (11). E-mail: *mbrya@msn.com*.

Catherine French-Sidoti (82, BS, mining engr.) has just taken and passed the exam for the Certified Quality Engineer (CQE) of the American Society for Quality. The exam involves a lot of statistics, experimental design, and process mapping knowledge. Catherine is a quality engineer and auditor for Johnson Controls Northern New Mexico (JCNNM) in Los Alamos.

Lew Lefton (82, BS, math; 82, BS, computer science) has taken a faculty position at Georgia Institute of Technology in the School of Mathematics. He is Director of Information Technology.

Jeff Corey (83, BS, petroleum engr.), wife, Caroline, and children, Alex, 11, and Tatiana, 9, recently transferred to Caracas, Venezuela. Jeff has been with Conoco for 16 years and serves as appraisal and development manager for a discovery in the Gulf of Paria. Jeff can be reached at

jeffrey.d.corey@ven.conoco.com.

Daniel Hachigian (84, BS, computer science) writes, "I recently became engaged to a lovely and intelligent physician, Martina Kreutzer (Beethoven named the Kreutzer Sonata in dedication to her great-great, etc., grandfather). She's doing a fellowship in pulmonary medicine at UC Davis, so I'm spending a lot of my life commuting for the next year and a half or so. For the past couple of years I have been enjoying doing exciting and challenging engineering work for Juniper Networks, the leading manufacturer of Internet backbone routing equipment. I reside in Palo Alto, Calif. (when not riding the train to Davis, Calif.)."

John E. Allen (85, BS, metallurgical engr.) and his family — wife, Marty; son, Kyle, 7; and daughter, Jessica, 5 — recently moved to Heath, Texas. John took a new job at Cytec Fiberite in Greenville, Texas where he is the new Quality Assurance Manager. Cytec Fiberite produces composite materials for aerospace and sporting goods.

Earl "Scooter" Berkheimer (85, BS, petroleum engr.) and his wife Karen (who has a bachelor's degree in marketing from High Point University, N.C.) live in Muscat, Oman. Earl and Karen welcomed a daughter, Taylor Bryson Berkheimer, on June 9. Earl says, "I have started my own oil and gas services business to supply downhole equipment and engineering services to producers in Oman. For any of my old friends that would like to touch base, my e-mail is: *ebglinks@omantel.net.om.*"

Dr. Rebecca Woodbury Keller (85, BS, chemistry) earned her Ph.D. in chemistry at the University of New Mexico in 1992. She has since been a National Institute of Health (NIH) Postdoctoral Fellow at the UNM Cancer Center and has held a funded postdoctoral fellowship in molecular and cell biology at the University of California at Berkeley.

Currently, Rebecca is a member of the research faculty at UNM's Department of Neurosciences. Rebecca has been married since 1988 to David Keller. They have three children: Kimberly, 10, Christopher, 7, and Katy, 4. Rebecca would like to hear from friends at *rkeller@unm.edu.*

Tony Macaluso (85, BS, mathematics) writes, "I finished my M.A. in applied mathematics at UNM in October 1989. Since January 1990, I've been employed by the U.S. Navy as a software analyst and mathematician at the Naval Surface Warfare Center in Dahlgren, Virginia. In July, 1999, I started a one-year assignment as a representative of NSWC at USSTRATCOM, Offut AFB, Nebraska. My wife Yen and I have two children: Michelle, 2, and Matthew, 3 weeks. My old friends can contact me by e-mail at: *yentony@omahalink.net.*"

Dennis Norwich (85, BS, petroleum engr.) has just completed personally building his new house at Sandy Hook, Conn.

Chuck Spalding (85, MS, hydrology) and his wife Natalie Duval — sister of **Tom Duval** (86, MS, hydrology) — had a son, Joseph Kearsarge Spalding on April 21, 1999. Joseph is his parents' (and uncle's) pride and joy — no doubt a future student at New Mexico Tech!

Bryan Ulrich (83, BS, mining engr.; 85, BS, geological engr.) and **Ellen (McKenzie) Ulrich** (84, AGS), together with their two children (Stephanie, 11, and Timothy, 8), have recently relocated to the northern suburbs of Johannesburg, South Africa for a period of about two years. When not touring game parks with the family, Bryan works for the consulting firm of Knight Piesold who provide civil engineering services to mining companies.

Having earned a master's degree in geotechnical engineering from the University of Alberta, Bryan specializes in soil mechanics and the design of tailings dams. He may be reached at *bryan.ulrich@iafrica.co.za.*

Vernon F. Perkins (86, BGS) is in his tenth year of teaching high school English and history at Aztec High School in Aztec, N.M. He earned his master's in education from New Mexico State in 1990. Vern has been active in sending some of his best students to New Mexico Tech.

Dr. Murat Bengisu (87, MS, materials engr., 92, Ph.D. materials engr.) is an assistant professor at the Industrial Engineering Dept. of Eastern Mediterranean University in Northern Cyprus.

Robert A. Boyd (87, BS, geophysics) works for the U.S. Geological Survey, which recently transferred him to its Las Vegas, Nev., office. He has been promoted to supervisory hydrologist.

Dr. Patrick Madden (87, BS, computer science; 90, MS, computer science) received his Ph.D. from UCLA in 1998 and is an assistant professor of computer science at the State University of New York at Binghamton. His homepage at *sol.cs.binghamton.edu/~pmadden/* includes photos of his recent two-week hiking trip to Peru.

Carmen Silva (87, BS, technical communication) is a systems engineer for Systems Technology Associates in Colorado Springs, Colo. She supports the Headquarters of the Air Force Space Command in the planning and development of training programs for major weapon defense systems. She is also working on a Master of Science degree in space systems operations management at Webster University. Carmen is also busy as the single parent of Jillian, age 10.

Wallace "Wally" Walters (88, BS, petroleum engr.) and his wife **Cathy Carrillo-Walters** (90, BS, psychology) moved to Dhahran, Saudi Arabia in November 1999. Wally has taken a position as Country Engineering Manager with BJ Services Company, Saudi Arabia. Cathy is busy being a full-time mom to Kevin, 7, and Matthew, 5. E-mail from friends and classmates are always welcome at *walters_wc@yahoo.com.*

Andy Zumwalt (88, BS, engineering science) is a systems engineer for a small integration outfit in northern Detroit, Applied Manufacturing Systems. Andy received his associate's degree in Automation/Robotics Technology from Wake Technical Community College in 1999.

1990s

Kathryn Ford (90, BS, biology) is a medical technologist working for Tricore Medical Laboratories at University Hospital in Albuquerque.

Brett Liggett (90, BS, petroleum engr.) writes, "I worked for six years for Unocal Corporation in Wyoming and New Mexico as a production engineer. I am currently working for an independent oil company in Houston, Texas, as a well drilling and completions engineer for their Gulf of Mexico Operations and am on my third year with this company. I married Cary Herrmann on August 24, 1997 in Santa Fe, N.M. Cary and I have known each other since going to high school together in Boulder, Colo. We now have a $2^1/_2$-year-old son, Andrew."

David Oakes (90, BS, biology; 90, BS, math; 93, MS, math) and his wife Amy **Stoklas-Oakes** (91, BS, physics, BS, engr.; 92, MS, engr.) wish to announce the birth of their second son, Tevel Aaron Oakes, born on Sept. 21, 1999. Tevvy joins big brother Cam Alexander Oakes (age 2). David is enjoying staying home with the boys during the day and teaching math at the local community college at night. Amy is still working for BSC Scimed making medical devices. And they are still in the not-so-frozen north of Minnesota.

Dr. Brian Brister (91, Ph.D., geology) has returned to Socorro after nine years working for small independent oil companies. He conducts petroleum-related research at the New Mexico Bureau of Mines and Mineral Resources. His wife, Julie, resumed her former position as dental hygienist with Dr. Duane Beers. Their six-year-old twins are enjoying first grade at Socorro's Parkview Elementary School.

James Penn (91, BS, mathematics; 94, MST) has coached the Academic Decathlon Team at St. Pius X High School in Albuquerque, N.M., to two consecutive academic team state championships.

The U.S. Academic Decathlon, the largest nationwide academic contest for high schools, consists of competitions in mathematics, science, social studies, economics, art, literature, essay writing, and speech. At the April 1999 National Finals held in Anaheim, Calif., Penn's St. Pius team earned the highest national placement ever for any New Mexico high school and earned the National Championship for all schools in Division III (schools with enrollment of 1,200 or less). Penn was named as one of the finalists for Coach of the Year.

In June, Penn was honored by the U.S. Department of Education when he was named a Presidential Distinguished Teacher through the Presidential Scholars Program. Penn currently teaches advanced algebra and geometry, advanced placement calculus, and coaches the academic teams at St. Pius.

Dennis Reda (91, BS, math; 95, MS, math) is a senior warfare analyst for the Naval Surface Warfare Center / Coastal System Station, doing mostly modeling and simulation. He lives and works in Panama City, Fla. He adds: "No wife, no kids, but a big house that needs remodeling."

Dr. Suzanne Linder (92, BS, physics; 92, BS, math) has finished her Ph.D. in astronomy and astrophysics at Penn State University, and has started working as a postdoc at the *Instituto Nacional de Astrofisica Optica y Electronica* (INAOE) near Puebla, Mexico (east of Mexico City). Friends may reach her at *slinder@inaoep.mx.*

Tom Jones (92, BS, physics, 92, BS, basic sciences) finished his Executive Fellows MBA from Loyola College in May. Earlier this year, he was promoted to Site Czar of SpeakOut.com, (*www.speakout.com/*) a venture-capital funded political activism website in downtown Washington, DC, where he uses his Tech experience in politics, *Paydirt*, and programming. Send Tom e-mail at *tjones@spril.com*.

Dr. Kent Ratajeski (92, BS, geology) received his Ph.D. in December 1999 from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He is currently on the faculty at the Department of Geology, Geography, and Environmental Studies at Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Mich.

Dr. Mary Urquhart (92, BS, physics; 92, BS, geophysics) and **Sean Kelly** (93, BS, computer science; 93, BS, technical communication) are the proud parents of Ariana Marie Kelly, born on July 21.

Mary is a Caltech post-doctoral researcher at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory. Sean is a software engineer for User Technology Associates. They live and work in Pasadena, Calif.

Majorie S. Ward (93, BS, physics) writes, "After a one-year stint in the nuclear engineering and engineering physics Ph.D. program at the University of Wisconsin, I decided to take some time off from school to smell the roses. I eventually returned to school, and this summer received my Master of Science degree in Urban and Regional Planning (with special focus on Environmental Planning and Natural Resources) from the University of Wisconsin, Madison. In June, I moved to South Bend, Ind. with my partner of four years, Tracy (a veterinarian), to start a job as a regional planner with the Michiana Area Council of Governments."

Meltem Abbott (94, MS, materials engr.) and **John Abbott** (95, MS, geology) both work for Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC), primarily supporting environmental restoration projects at the Savannah River Site. They live in Evans, Ga.

Thomas Allen (94, BS, environmental engr.) reports that he and his wife, Wendy, welcomed daughter Ivey Jeannette Allen on April 24, 1999. Tom received his master's in teaching from Seattle University in June, and is now teaching middle school math and science. Wendy is mothering and baking beautiful cakes for catering, parties, etc.

Andrew M. Montaño (94, BGS) recently presented some preliminary findings on a project he's been involved with at the 1999 North American Lake Management Society conference in Reno, Nev. His presentation focused on the chemistry of the Salton Sea, Calif., which has been part of a year-long limnological study of that area. Andrew is also involved with current limnological monitoring of Lake Shasta, Calif., and the Sacramento River. Friends can reach Andrew at *amontano@yahoo.com*.

Robert TerBerg (94, MS, hydrology) works for Lawrence Berkeley National Labs in Berkeley, Calif. He says, "My work is to perform field experiments in selenium infiltration, and thereby make California a safer place for ducks." Between graduation and Berkeley, he has worked for Basin & Range Hydrogeologists in Phoenix, Ariz.; Geomatrix Consulants in Newport Beach, Calif.; and Komex H20 Science in Huntington Beach, Calif. He adds that he nailed his Registered Geologist exams in Arizona and California on the first shot, and that he is having fun playing the highest scoring and fastest hockey of his life.

Robert adds, "I would like to thank everybody that I met in the last nine years for what I have learned from them. I am so happy, proud and grateful for the progress I've made and the collective experience I've had in the last nine years."

Doug Tune (94, BS, environmental engr.) writes, "I recently accepted a position as a project manager for the Lower Colorado River Authority in Austin, Texas. I am managing design and construction of water and wastewater treatment plants and conveyance systems for the Authority. The Authority provides wholesale and retail water/wastewater service to much of the rapidly growing Central Texas area. I encourage everyone to visit the beautiful Texas Hill Country and the Highland Lakes on the Colorado River. It is truly beautiful country. Friends are welcome to contact me at *dtune@lcra.org* or visit our website at *www.lcra.org*."

Nick Gollmer (95, BGS) is employed with ITT Industries, ITT Aerospace/ Communications Division, in Fort Wayne, Ind. as a failure analysis engineer for materials in the Product Assurance Laboratory. Nick supports numerous government and space related projects including the military GPS and GOES weather satellite programs through physical failure analysis and scanning electron microscopy of materials-related issues. Aside from working in the laboratory, he enjoys family time with his wife **Lois Gollmer** (85, AGS) and their two children, Nathaniel and Naomi.

Steven S. "Scott" Vincent (95, BS, environmental engr.) writes, "My wife Terri and I were blessed by the birth of our daughter Riley Jayne on Feb. 6, 1999. We recently moved to Colorado Springs from the San Francisco area because I changed jobs with the Air Force. Previously I was with the Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence Western Region Office as the Regional Environmental Manager for Air Quality. My new position is Environmental Program Manager at Schriever AFB."

Aimee K. Blanchard (96, BS, environmental engr.) and her husband **Jayson L. Blanchard** (96, BS, environmental engr.) are living in South Range, Mich., in the Upper Penninsula.

Aimee says, "I completed an M.S. in Mining Engineering from Michigan Technological University in September of 1999 and received my diploma at commencement in November of 1999. It was a great feeling to receive that degree!

"However, something has possessed me to continue my graduate studies with the intention of finishing my Ph.D. in Mining Engineering in December of 2001. My research focuses on theories of rock mechanics and fragmentation by blasting.

"Jayson and I have enjoyed living in Michigan's Upper Peninsula but are looking forward to returning to the warmer and less snowy Southwest soon. We had over 200 inches of the white stuff by early February! We would love to hear from our friends at *akblanch@up.net* and *jlblanch@up.net*."

Lauren Hurtgen (96, AGS) is case coordinator of a home health company in Westchester, N.Y. She earned her bachelor's degree in psychology at Western Connecticut State Univ. Lauren and her husband, Bryan Hurtgen, are expecting their first child in the spring of 2001.

Sofia Galanis (97, BS, environmental science) was married on May 6 to Wesley Hohnholt in Lubbock, Texas. Sofia received her master's degree in chemistry from Texas Tech University in May.

Amy (Key) Kristjanson (97, BS, biology) and **John Kristjanson** (97, BS, environmental engr.) were married in 1998 and live in Albuquerque. Amy writes, "I am a pharmaceutical sales representative for a mental health company. I enjoy my job. It is a good combination of social and technical. And, believe it or not, I actually use my degree a lot. John is working for Voicestream as a construction manager overseeing the construction of cellular phone towers."

Robert G. Taylor (97, MS, hydrology) has moved to Meridian, Idaho. He is teaching math and researching hydrogeology at Boise State University, while pursuing his secondary certification.

Jason Ralph Coombs (98, BS, computer science; 98, BS, mathematics) put his Tech-trained brain to work on "Wheel of Fortune," earning $27,300. The show aired on Oct. 4, 1999.

Clifford Walker (98, BS, environmental engr.) was commended by the Peace Corps for being one of more than 200 Hispanic Americans serving in the Corps. Cliff is serving as an environmental and water resources engineer in Honduras.

Patrice Brun (99, BS, mineral engr.) is an engineer-in-training with Maxim Technologies in Chandler, Ariz. He lives in Phoenix.

Tricia (Bynum) Bensted (99) married John Bensted on March 4, 2000. John is an analyst for National City Investments, and Tricia is a full-time student at Grand Valley State University. They live in Grand Rapids, Mich.

Rebecca Ideus (99, BS, technical communication) and **Nathan Taylor** (99, BS, technical communication) write, "We are happy to announce our engagement. The wedding is set for March 2001 in Sacramento, N.M. We both relocated to the Houston area immediately after graduation to work at Compaq Computer Corporation. Rebecca works as a technical writer and web developer in the Information Management division; Nathan is a web editor (though more appropriately dubbed a jack-of-all-trades) in the Industry Standard Server Di-

vision. We love living in the Houston area, although Rebecca desperately misses green chile! After the wedding, we'll continue to call Spring, Texas, our home."

Dr. John DeWitt McKee 1919-2000

Dr. John McKee, professor emeritus of English, passed away on April 26.

by Valerie Kimble

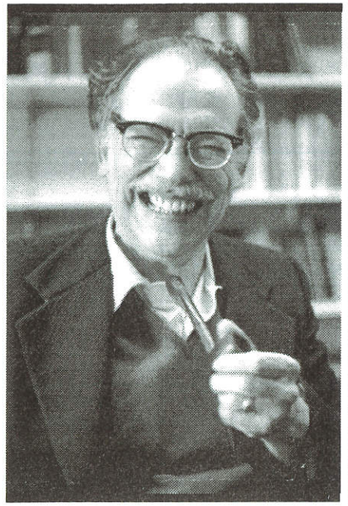
Think of John DeWitt McKee as a missionary once sent to preach the gospel of salvation to the savages, only in this case the gospel was the beauty of the written word, and the savages were the rank and file students at New Mexico Tech.

The metaphor is based on McKee's own words: Being a professor of English at a science and engineering school, McKee once said, "is like being a missionary in an outpost."

The image of McKee as a bastion of the written word is entirely appropriate. Even after he retired from Tech in 1985, McKee, who died on April 26 at the age of 80, continued his life's work of preaching the gospel of good writing.

McKee loved words, and was a master of the pun, said Dr. James Corey, Tech professor of humanities. "He was very well liked by students of both technical writing and literature," Corey said, adding that McKee pioneered an introductory course on the arts, the first Tech humanities class outside mainstream literature.

McKee retired at about the same time that Tech started its Technical Communication (TC) program. Although McKee never taught a TC course at Tech, he helped develop the curriculum, and agreed that it should be offered as a Bachelor of Science, rather than a Bachelor of Arts program.



"I have no quarrel with the sciences," said McKee in an interview published in Socorro's *Defensor Chieftain* in 1982. "The sciences are just a branch of the humanities. Once we get the kids in, they get interested. If we work it right, we can grab them. We can teach them a little about living instead of just making a living."

McKee knew a lot about living for a man not expected to live much beyond late childhood. He was born in 1919 with cerebral palsy, weighing a mere two-and-a-half pounds at birth. Since there were no incubators at the time, his first months were spent in a closed basket surrounded by warm bricks.

In rural Kansas in the 1920s, "they didn't know cerebral palsy from spaghetti," said McKee. Fortunately, he had two things going for him: Tough parents, especially his mother who didn't "baby" her son; and an inherently strong will, as can be attested by anyone who ever knew McKee or spent time in his classroom.

He also gave credit to a surgeon in Kansas City, whom he once described, in typical McKee fashion, as "a crusty old bastard, but a marvel." Between the ages of five and 17, the young McKee had several operations to try to help him walk.

"I suspect that most of that was pure, 'Let's try this and see it if will work,' and it did," said McKee in the *Chieftain* interview.

His parents and two brothers "never let me think that there was anything I couldn't do," he said. McKee played football and baseball (although he could only throw for three innings).

The result of his upbringing was that McKee didn't consider himself handicapped; and, consequently, others tended to take his disability very matter-of-factly. But, while other kids were out roughhousing, McKee said he instead developed a love of reading and writing at an early age.

McKee started writing about sports for his junior high school newspaper, and during his summers away from Kansas Wesleyan, he wrote for the *Phillips County Review*, a highly acclaimed Kansas weekly.

He majored in English literature and minored in journalism

and history, and for 10 years after graduating, he worked for newspapers, starting with the *Raton News* and including *The Albuquerque Tribune*.

Eventually he received a Ph.D. in American studies. "If I had gone on to get a doctorate in English," he said, "I would have ended up spending my whole life counting the commas in Keats."

In 1959, accompanied by his wife, Jeannette, McKee moved to Socorro and joined the faculty at New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology. He had arrived at his missionary outpost. It may be difficult for the New Mexico Tech community of 2000 to imagine what life was like for a post-World War II English professor teaching at a small technical school.

Undaunted, McKee and the late Howard Sylvester were to set standards that continue today.

One of McKee's students was Bill Hume, now editorial page editor of the *Albuquerque Journal*, who wrote of one of McKee's courses: "It was perhaps the most effective I ever experienced in terms of showing how to make language say precisely what is intended, but keeping it interesting, and readable at the same time.

"McKee was teaching how to make technical reports more understandable, but his insight applied in spades to the trade of news writing as well. McKee loved his English, but to him it was a tool, an instrument for the use and enjoyment of its user, rather than a master and disciplinarian. There must be hundreds upon hundreds of former Tech students who share this advanced understanding of and relationship to English, thanks to their sojourn with Jack McKee."

McKee also was an inveterate writer of letters to the editor, very often to the *Journal* and the *Chieftain*. Woe to those who abused the English language, for McKee was ready to wield his editorial pen to - as he might have said - write the wrongs of grammar and clarity.

The *Journal's* Jim Belshaw remembers well the tone and texture of McKee's writing. "[McKee's letters were] marked by humor and grace, not the ham-handed hatchet jobs of today's cheap-shot cynics. Even when Jack was unhappy, he made you smile and left hope that the sinner he had in his sights might still be saved."

Since we are back to a salvation theme, this seems the proper time to mention McKee's affiliation with the First Presbyterian Church of Socorro. McKee was a devout church member, although he might object to the adjective devout. In fairness, then, let us say he was a devoted member.

In 1984, McKee published a centennial history of the church (1880-1980) called *Time of Trouble, Time of Triumph*. In it, he recounted the names and events that shaped a church history; and, we might add, McKee himself was one of those patrons who helped guide the church as an Elder and Clerk of Session.

It was a joy to run across the McKee brand of humor amid his standard journalistic prose. In an entry from the first chapter, McKee tells readers that the first pastor of the Presbyterian Church found Socorro by accident (as many do). McKee wrote that the Rev. Mr. Fulton was headed to Albuquerque when he stopped in Las Vegas, N.M., to spend the night.

Las Vegas, then a strong rival of the bigger city to the south, painted such a convincing picture of that city's wildness, "the vices of its inhabitants, the dizziness of its climate, and the savagery of neighboring Indians, that Mr. Fulton traveled right on through Albuquerque to Socorro instead."

Continued McKee: "Had [Fulton] known about the wildness of the inhabitants of Socorro at that time, he might very well have decided to give up the whole idea."

Throughout his life, John DeWitt McKee never gave up on the principles he held as ideals, nor his vision of the world and its inhabitants.

"The happy thing about the humanities is that the questions they ask will never be answered," he said in that 1982 interview. "The topic of what it means to be human will constantly be reviewed, revised, and rewritten."

McKee might have been talking about the art of writing itself.

(Thanks to Bill Kiraly, who interviewed McKee for Defensor Chieftain in 1982; and to Bill Hume and Jim Belshaw of the Albuquerque Journal, for allowing us to use quotes from their articles on McKee.)

Obituaries

Louis P. Baudoin (Lou) Sr., a former Tech employee, passed away on Wednesday, March 15, 2000 at his residence in Socorro, N.M. Born February 26, 1922 to Louis J. and Hildred Gardenier Baudoin in Claremont, Minn. He lived his early years in southern Minnesota, moved to Chicago, where he graduated from Waukegan Township High School; became an Eagle Scout; anad attended RCA Institutes. In 1942, he joined the Army Air Corps (later the United States Air Force) to become a pilot (43K). He flew multi-engine aircraft (B-26 Marauders, and B-29s) achieving the rank of First Lieutenant. He continued to serve in the Air Force Reserve until 1957.

In 1950, Mr. Baudoin and his wife Berenyce moved to Albuquerque, where he worked for Timpte Inc. before becoming an Associate Senior Designer for Sandia National Laboratories. After retiring from Sandia in 1975, Lou and his wife moved to Socorro and hand-built their house. From 1984 to 1989, Lou worked for New Mexico Tech as a mechanical design technician in the Department of Mining and Geological Engineering.

Lou was a member of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, the American Welding Society, Medical Arts Research Foundation, Kit Carson Council, Boy Scouts of America, B-26 Marauder Historical Society, Air Force Flyers Club, Socorro Old Car Club, National Model T Club, VMCCA, and the Socorro County Historical Society. He was a ham radio operator and assisted in the design of the VLA rail vehicles system. Lou and Berenyce enjoyed appearing in parades in their 1925 Model T Speedster and taking cruises on ships.

Lou Baudoin touched many people through his helping hands, innovation, design skills and goodwill, enabling and changing people's lives through his generosity. He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Berenyce Falk Baudoin, of Socorro; sons, Louis Jr. and wife Patricia, Ali and wife LaVerne of Albuquerque; grandchildren Lisa, Suzanne, Genevieve, and Bayard; great-grandchildren, Ely Watson, Noah Watson and Max Nieberg.

Roy Blankley, Jr., 84, of Anthony, N.M., passed away on Thursday, March 2, 2000, at Providence Memorial Hospital in El Paso. He was born Oct. 1, 1915 in Dunkirk, Ind. He served in the Army during World War II and graduated from the New Mexico School of Mines in 1948 with a bachelor's degree in petroleum engineering. Blankley was retired from his position as school principal for the Gadsden Independent School District. He was a member of St. Luke's Episcopal Church, the Lions Club, and the Masonic Lodge.

Ralph F. Conway, 85, passed away on Nov. 26, 1998, in San Antonio, Texas. He was born on Jan. 11, 1913, in Westfield, Mass. He received a bachelor's degree in mining engineering from the New Mexico School of Mines in 1938. He served as a lieutenant colonel in the U. S. Army Air Corps during World War II. He then worked for American Airlines for 31 years, retiring with the rank of captain.

Conway was preceded in death by his son, Gary L. Conway. Survivors include his wife of 59 years, Almira E. Conway; son, Gerald T. of Reno, Nev.; son and daughter-in-law Kevin R. and Patti of Austin; daughter-in-law Dianne of Smithtown, N.Y.; four grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

William (Bill) Porter Davenport, 69, passed away suddenly on Dec. 18, 1999, at Presbyterian Hospital in Albuquerque. For the past year, Davenport taught computer science courses at New Mexico Tech as an adjunct faculty member. He was born in Danbury, Conn., and raised in Tucson, Ariz. In 1955, he married Maryon Perry and attended the University of Arizona, graduating in 1960. He worked in industry, starting at Mountain Telephone and Telegraph in Ariz. For Safeway stores in Oakland, Calif., Davenport designed and built their first computer center; and for Bank Americard (Visa) in San Francisco, he designed and implemented their first national telecommunications system.

Bill had an inherent, abiding love of teaching and spent the last 20 years of his professional career as an associate professor of computer science at Acadia University, Wolfville, Nova Scotia, Canada.

Following retirement in 1994, he and his wife settled in New Mexico, first in Albuquerque and then, for the past year, in San Antonio, N.M. Bill was a deeply committed Christian, devoted husband and father, and respected and loved by those who knew him for his integrity, forthrightness, and joy of life.

He is survived by his wife, Maryon of San Antonio, N.M., two daughters, Leslie Fuentes and husband Marty of Albuquerque, Brenda Schaeffer and husband Brian of Deming; a son William (Bill) Davenport and wife Joanne of Nova Scotia, Canada; two sisters, Anne Lovekin and husband, William, of Albuquerque, Mary Jacksha and husband, Larry, of Socorro; a brother, John (Jay), and his wife, Betsy, of Baldwin Park, Calif., and nine grandchildren.

Kirk Allen Ferdig, age 28, passed away Oct. 30, 1998 from cancer. He graduated from New Mexico Tech in 1992 with a bachelor's degree in chemistry with an environmental option. He worked in the pharmaceutical industry as a chemist and a Laboratory Information Management Systems specialist. Kirk is survived by his wife Monica; children, Amber, Aaron, and Autumn; parents Jerry and Patty; brothers Dean and Eric; and sister Nicole.

Dr. Charles Michael "Mike" Fullerton, age 67, of Hilo, Hawaii, died on Nov. 13, 1999, at home. Fullerton was born in Oklahoma City and attended Sewanee Military Academy in Sewanee, Tenn., where he was valedictorian of the Class of 1950. He then attended the University of the South at Sewanee and later the University of Oklahoma, where he received a bachelor's degree in mathematics in 1954. He served in the United States Army as a commander of the 4th Ordnance Company (Guided Missile Maintenance and Repair), at White Sands Missile Range and later as adjutant, 61st Ordnance Group, and administrative assistant to the post ordnance officer, Fort Bliss, Texas. He then attended New Mexico Tech, where he earned a master's degree in physics in 1964 and a Ph.D. in geophysics in 1966.

He joined the faculty of the University of Hawaii (UH) in 1966 and subsequently became director of the Cloud Physics Laboratory of UH Hilo's Department of Meteorology in 1969. Fullerton served as director of that research facility for 14 years, pausing briefly in 1974 to serve as acting provost of the UH Hilo campus. In 1984, he was named dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, a post he held for eight years. During his tenure as dean, Fullerton served as chairman of the Hawaii Island United Way, helping to bring in over $1 million dollars in donations in 1990. He also served on the boards of several organizations, including the Boys and Girls Club of Hilo and the St. Joseph's School Board. Throughout his years at UH, Fullerton was an enthusiastic supporter of Vulcan Athletics, especially men's basketball.

In 1992, Fullerton left academic administration and teaching to devote himself full-time to community and civic service. He was a long-standing member and past president of the Rotary Club of South Hilo, and served in 1999 as the club's secretary. He was a major supporter of the Blood Bank of Hawaii, serving both as a member of the Hilo Friends for Life Committee and as a "super" blood donor himself. Fullerton was also an active member of the St. Joseph's Catholic Church, singing in both the main parish choir and the Aloha choir, volunteering as a lay lector at weekly masses, and serving this year as chairman of the Parish Pastoral Advisory Council.

He is survived by his wife, Jane Jo Fullerton, of Socorro, N.M., and his children: Malia Fullerton of State College, Pa., Christopher Fullerton of Three Springs., Pa., and Amy Fullerton of Halaula, Hawaii.

Robert F. Goudge, 83, passed away on Jan 28, 2000. Born on June 8, 1916, in New York City, he had been a resident of Boulder City, Nev., for 14 years. He graduated from the New Mexico School of Mines in 1941 with a bachelor's degree in mining engineering. He served in the United States Navy during World War II.

Goudge attended St. Christopher's Espicopal Church in Boulder City. He was an avid swimmer and was once named Nevada Senior Athlete of the Year.

He is survived by his wife, Janet; son, Bob; grandsons, Robert and Marcus, and five great-grandchildren.

Dr. Robert Hjellming, age 61, died of natural causes while scuba diving on July 29, 2000. Bob, a well-known astrophysicist with the National Radio Astronomy Observatory, had served as an adjunct physics professor at New Mexico Tech

since 1977 and was advisor to Tech's Newman Association, an organization for Catholic college students, from 1986 to 1995. He advised many graduate students and taught a number of courses in radio astronomy at Tech.

Bob was born on Dec. 21, 1938, in Gary, Ind., and graduated from high school in Caldwell, Idaho. He received his bachelors', masters', and doctoral degrees from the University of Chicago.

Bob began working for NRAO in 1968 in Charlottesville, Va., following three years as a professor at Case Western Reserve University. During his stint in Virginia, Bob worked with the Green Bank Interferometer, a prototype of the Very Large Array (VLA). Bob's pioneering work on radio emissions from X-ray objects led to his being considered a world expert on binary star systems in which one star is a black hole or neutron star. He was also a pioneer in making the VLA usable to a wide range of astronomers from many subfields, rather than an instrument used by a few specialists.

Bob and his wife, Carol, have lived in Socorro since 1976. Carol is a Tech alumna, having earned her Bachelor of General Studies in 1980 and a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry in 1982. She was an employee of the New Mexico Bureau of Mines and Mineral Resources, until her retirement in April 1999.

Bob was an active member of the San Miguel Catholic Church in Socorro. In addition to Carol, Bob is survived by five children: Michael of Shelby, N.C.; Marya Sena of Albuquerque, N.M.; Thomas of Wheaton, Ill., Peter of Lancaster, Ca., and Theresa of Portland, Ore. He is also survived by four grandchildren: Eric, Andrew, Kelsey, and Nicholas.

Catherine M. (McKinney) LaVada passed away on Oct. 11, 1999, in Medford, Ore., after a three-year battle with ovarian cancer. She was born in 1941, in Lebanon, Ore. She received her bachelor's degree in geology from New Mexico Tech in 1986, which she regarded as her most rewarding accomplishment. She had been married since Dec. 7, 1990, to Larry LaVada of Kerby, Ore. The couple lived in the Illinois Valley of Oregon.

Catherine was a member of the Baha'i faith. Activities she enjoyed were geology, bowling, and attending auctions.

In addition to her husband, survivors include her father, Noah McKinney of Prineville, Ore.; a son, John D. Key of Las Vegas, Nev.; a daughter, Theresa, M. Connoly of Mound, Okla.; a brother, Gary McKinney of Prineville; a sister, Penny Lewman of Grants Pass, Ore.; and four grandchildren.

Dr. John DeWitt McKee, 1919-2000. *See article on page 18 of this issue.*

Paul D. Meadows, 73, an active and respected leader in the oil and gas industry, passed away on Friday, Nov. 19, 1999.

Meadows was born on Oct. 22, 1926, in Niotaze, Kan. He received his bachelor's degree in petroleum engineering from New Mexico Tech in 1952, and was presented with an honorary doctorate in 1982. He served in the Army Air Corps during World War II.

Throughout his career, Meadows held many important positions in the oil and gas industry. He was a founder and director of Ensource, Inc., Denver, Colo.; member of the Technical Advisory Committee of UMC Petroleum Corp., Houston, Texas; president and CEO of Canadian Reserve Oil and Gas Company, Calgary, Alberta; president of James A. Lewis Engineering, Inc., Dallas, Texas; and manager of engineering for Honolulu Oil Corporation, San Francisco, Calif. Most recently, he was a partner in Vega Energy Co. and chairman of the board of two corporations: Potomac Energy Corp., Oklahoma City, and the Chandler Co., Denver.

Paul Meadows was a member of the Castle Pines Golf Club, Castle Rock, Colo., the Cherry Hills Country Club, Denver, Colo., and Eldorado Country Club, Indian Wells, Calif.

He is survived by his wife of 49 years, Jimmie, and by his daughter Paula. He is also survived by his sister Norma Patterson of San Diego, Calif.; sister Audrey Ladd of Elk City, Okla.; brother Dan Meadows of Scottsdale, Ariz., sister Lana West, also of Scottsdale, Ariz., and sister Sherley Robinson of Phoenix, Ariz.

Robert Paul Rodriguez, age 33, passed away on Sunday, Aug. 1, 1999. He was a 1996 graduate with a bachelor's degree in basic sciences, and he also earned an Army Achievement Medal in 1988. He is survived by his wife, Cheryl, and daughter, Shade, of Shiprock; his parents, Paul and Annabelle Rodriguez of Nambe; a brother, Raul Rodriguez and wife, Russella, of Nambe; two sisters, Deborah Los and husband, Mike, and Marissa Rodriguez and husband Ganeson Gopala, of Albuquerque; and many other relatives.

R. Steve Kirkpatrick, 47, of Santa Fe, passed away on Sunday, Aug. 1, 1999. He graduated from New Mexico Tech in 1974 with a bachelor's degree in mathematics. He was the owner of Kirkpatrick Visions in Santa Fe. Steve was born on April 25, 1952, in Alamosa, Colo., to Robert E. and Alice Ann Kirkpatrick. He married Virginia, who survives him, on Aug. 25, 1973. He retired as a data processing manager with the Highway Department of the state of New Mexico. In addition to his wife and parents, he is survived by his sons, R. Daniel and James Kirkpatrick, both of Santa Fe.

David Wilson, the architect who engineered New Mexico Tech's return to building colors of the 1930s, passed away on Feb. 25, 2000, at the age of 49. Dave was born on Dec. 16, 1950, to Marvin and Helen Wilson in Bryan, Texas, and grew up in Las Cruces. He was a graduate of Las Cruces High School, where he was a champion wrestler, and later earned his degree in architecture from the University of New Mexico.

Jim Shaffner, director of Tech's Physical Plant, said, "He was involved in every single architectural project on this campus for the past 10 years."

Wilson, he said, designed the Aerojet facilities in Tech's research park, the facelift to South Hall, and oversaw the Workman Center project from demolition (of the old building) to completion (of the new one). Shaffner said Wilson worked toward an architectural harmony, so that no building "stuck out." Even the rugby storage shed parked on the Athletic Field fits into the genre.

Dave was a frequent visitor to the Alumni Office, where he would peruse old yearbooks to get the flavor of the campus's traditional appearance. It was Dave who initiated the project of returning the buildings to the sandy color they used to be.

Dave lived in a home in Lemitar — which he designed himself — along with four horses, four dogs, and a burro.

New Appointments and Faculty

Dr. Peter F. Gerity was named vice president for academic affairs at New Mexico Tech. Dr. Carl Popp, who had served in that position since 1985, returned to being a full-time chemistry professor.

Dr. Peter A. Scholle has been appointed director of the New Mexico Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources (NMBG&MR) and state geologist.

Dr. Matt Silva (75, BS, basic studies; 84, MS, petroleum engr.) was appointed director of New Mexico Tech's Environmental Evaluation Group (EEG) in Albuquerque.

Dr. Ken Eack (91, BS, physics) has returned to New Mexico Tech as an assistant professor of physics and researcher at Langmuir Laboratory for Atmospheric Research.

Thanks to Alumni Recruiters!

Many alumni have helped out the Admission Office by attending college fairs, college nights, or other student-recruiting events held in their areas. Alums who want to join the recruiting effort, please contact Elizabeth Ahadi of the Admission Office at:
eahadi@admin.nmt.edu, or **1-800-428-TECH, ext. 1.**

2000 Alumni Reps:
Meltem & John Abbott
Kevin & Kristen Almgren
Meredith Appelt
Terry Asher
Jesse Chisholm
Dr. Glen Cook
Andy Dysart
Dr. Frank Greiner
Amy Hayes
Bob Gray
Christopher Harder
Melissa Jones
Dr. Henry Lazarus
Abel Lobato
Debra Miller
Doug Pecore
Daniel Putz
Manuel Gallegos
Robert Walker
Dr. Tamara Walthall

1999 Alumni Reps:
Meltem & John Abbott
Kevin & Kristen Almgren
Meredith Appelt
Terry Asher
Julie Cadogan
Jesse Chisholm
Paul Cohen
Dr. Glen Cook
John Dowdle
Andy Dysart
Sorin Fosalau
Bob Gray
Dr. Frank Greiner
Christopher Harder
Dick & Amy Hughes
Melissa Jones
Lew Lefton
Walter MacKinlay
Debra Miller
Doug & Jenny Pecore
Daniel Putz
Greg Sadowski
Thomas Smith
Carl Von Elm
Robert Walker
Dr. Tamara Walthall
Don Williams

New Mexico Tech thanks all of you!