

Gold Pan

New Mexico Tech

Spring 2001

Open Letter to Alumni from Steve Bobinsky

Dear New Mexico Tech Alumni:

Thanks for your patience and cooperation as we try to establish new procedures and routines for alumni stewardship. We are anxious to keep in touch with you more frequently than we have in the past. This Spring 2001 issue of *Gold Pan*, published so soon after your last issue, is one example of that.

In all new operations, there are always a few bugs. Our attempt to use eGroups.com as a communication tool among alumni did not work out the way we had intended, and we apologize for the inconvenience to some alums. We are pleased to see that there are a number of alums who are actively using eGroups to communicate among themselves.

We are currently looking into other platforms to establish communication, so you will hear from us reasonably often. More details will follow in a future *Gold Pan*.

We appreciate all the alumni who are willing to receive *Gold Pan* electronically, via e-mail, or at our website, www.nmt.edu/mainpage/alumni.html. In order to bring you *Gold Pan* more frequently, it is

important that we economize on printing and postage costs.

We are interested in your feedback, and we are looking for new ways to involve alumni with Tech, with current students, and with prospective students. As one example of this, on January 16, we held "A Night with New Mexico Tech" in Albuquerque to bring together alumni, prospective students, and parents of prospective students. We appreciate the participation of those who turned out.



Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Stephany Moore, who is moving on to a position with New Mexico Tech's Research and Economic Development Office. During the couple of years she has

worked for the Advancement Office, she has been an enormous help in managing databases and statistics, organizing events, and helping establish communication among alumni, and in many other ways. Thank you, Stephany; and good luck in your new job!

Steve Bobinsky
Director of Advancement
sbobinsky@admin.nmt.edu

Nominate Someone!

At Commencement 2001, on May 12, three awards will be given that we would like your nominations for. You may nominate people by e-mailing goldpan@nmt.edu or writing to: Alumni Office, New Mexico Tech, 801 Leroy Place, Socorro, NM 87801.

Distinguished Achievement

This award is given to a Tech/School of Mines alum who has achieved recognition in his or her career. Please write some information as to what the person has achieved and why you think they merit recognition. If you can, please include a curriculum vita or resume.

Distinguished Service

Nominees for this award do not need to be alumni. A nominee should be a person who has served Tech well and benefited it as an institution. This could include not only donations of money but also donations of time and effort to increase recognition of Tech's high quality.

Distinguished Teaching

The Distinguished Teaching Award goes to the faculty member who, in the opinion of students, alumni, and fellow faculty members, exemplifies outstanding teaching at New Mexico Tech. Both current faculty and emeritus faculty members are eligible for nomination. Past recipients are listed at www.nmt.edu/mainpage/faculty/dist.html.

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NM Tech Licenses Repellent Patent To Global Source Advantage

Dr. Daniel H. López, president of New Mexico Tech, announced that Global Source Advantage, Inc. (GSA) has licensed the patent owned by the New Mexico Tech Research Foundation that creates environmentally sensitive animal and insect repellents using chile peppers. Terms of the agreement were not disclosed. GSA is a fully integrated, international farming, extraction, and marketing firm with headquarters in California and pepper farming operations in several Central American countries. The process which was discovered and patented by scientists at New Mexico Tech, allows capsaicin, the natural heat of chile peppers, to be molecularly bonded into paints, stains, plastics, and other rubberized materials, thus creating a wide range of repellents.



Research conducted by New Mexico Tech and other independent, third-party scientific teams has proven the chile-based repellents is effective in protecting against rodents and other mammals, termites and other insects, various wood-boring birds, freshwater and saltwater aquatic pests, various snails, and reptiles.

Jeff DeVaney, president of GSA, said, "We are very excited to own the exclusive license on this patented process. We believe we are now uniquely positioned to provide our extract on a worldwide basis and directly assist in eliminating many of the potentially harmful chemicals used today for repellent purposes."

MEDD4, a limited liability company which specializes in technology transfers, financing, and implementation and production of new products and innovations, marketed the patent for the New Mexico Tech Research Foundation. Additional information is available at www.medd4.com.

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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:* Theresa Boracci ('97, BGS)
- President-elect:* Joy Thompson ('95, BGS)
- Past President:* Rose Baca ('97, BS, technical communication)
- In-state vice president:* Harvey Padilla ('00, MS, chemistry)
- Out-of-state vice president:* Sandra Grebe ('91, MST)
- Secretary:* Camille Gurule ('00, AGS)
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Letter from Rose Baca

Dear Fellow Alumni:

So much has happened during this past year. I consider myself very fortunate to be part of this office. One of our objectives is to increase our involvement with our alumni and friends. We intend to provide better services and more events for our alums.



Members of the Alumni Association have voted for new officers, and they are listed in the masthead on page 2.

Our office is in the process of planning alumni events for this year. We have the Class of 1951 Golden Reunion scheduled for May 11 and 12 (during Commencement) and our annual Albuquerque TechFest on June 16. This year's 49ers Celebration will be held on October 19 and 20. As schedules are established for events, they will be posted on our website.

I need your ideas as to how we can better serve you and what events you would like. As many of you know, 49ers is not dead,

but needs to be revitalized. I cannot do this alone; I need your input. One possibility I have considered is having workshops or a lecture series before or during 49ers, thereby encouraging you to take time off from your jobs and join your Tech friends.

Some alumni have suggested having reunions related to their disciplines. This would give them a chance to network with friends, meet current Tech faculty, and get updated in their fields. I am looking into the possibilities of doing that.

Another one of our goals is to form New Mexico Tech Alumni Association Chapters in cities across the nation. We could then sponsor annual events in different cities.

Please contact us; we are always ready to hear your suggestions.

Rose Baca, ('97, BS, technical communication)
Coordinator of Marketing and Alumni Relations
rbaca@admin.nmt.edu

NM TECH WINS CONTRACT TO OPERATE INTERNATIONAL TRAINING FACILITY FOR ROSWELL

Congressman Joe Skeen and U.S. Senator Pete Domenici have announced that the Department of State has awarded a contract to New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology to establish and operate a new federal international law enforcement training facility in Roswell.

The contract award is the culmination of three years of work by Domenici and Skeen to get the, at times reluctant, State Department to establish an International Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA) at the deBremont National Guard facility at the Roswell Industrial Air Center. New Mexico Tech's

partners in this venture are Eastern New Mexico University-Roswell, Sam Houston University, and the Science Applications International Corporation.

Under an August agreement, the State Department will establish the ILEA in Roswell to train mid-to-senior law enforcement and criminal justice officials from several countries. The Roswell ILEA will train approximately 1,200 students a year, providing courses for foreign law enforcement officials similar to those taught at a typical criminal justice university.

Skeen and Domenici, both members of the House and Senate appropriations committees, respectively, have secured \$10 million for the project to date.

"New Mexico Tech's expertise in counter-terrorism and law enforcement training will guarantee a quality training program for curbing international criminal activities," Skeen said. "It's vital that we have a facility that will complement international efforts to fight crime in the U.S. and around the world. President Dan López and Vice President Van Romero have done an excellent job in enhancing the university's reputation as one of the leading scientific and technological institutions in the world. I look forward to a very productive and successful training program in Roswell. I share the city's enthusiasm for welcoming this new project and I'm pleased to have played a major role in securing

(continued on Page 4)

the program for New Mexico.”

“This is excellent news for Roswell, New Mexico Tech and ENMU-R,” Domenici said. “I hope that the contract award will mean that work will begin post-haste in establishing the ILEA in Roswell so that training can begin as soon as possible. I think this new facet of activity for the Roswell Industrial Air Center will be good for the area. Finally, I appreciate Joe Skeen’s tenacity in working with me to convince the State Department that Roswell will be an excellent host for the ILEA.”

During the past 10 years, many nations have seen a significant increase in terrorist threats,

particularly those organized and financed by criminal and drug trafficking organizations. The ILEA program will assist law enforcement officers from throughout the world in addressing such serious criminal activities through a broad-based curriculum as implemented by the U.S. criminal justice model.

The ILEA program, which is expected to have an annual \$5 million budget, will offer courses similar to those provided at a typical university. Topics will include police organization and administration, urban and family violence prevention, civil disobedience and dissent, and psychology of criminal behavior.

Donor Recognition: 1999 – 2000

New Mexico Tech gratefully acknowledges gifts received during the fiscal year from July 1, 1999 through June 30, 2000. The generous support of these individuals and companies helps us meet the expectations of our student body for an outstanding education.

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TECHNOTES

These news stories are posted in full on our website at www.nmt.edu/mainpage/news/.

Grad Student Develops Arsenic Test Kit — In the course of field work conducted for his geochemistry dissertation, New Mexico Tech doctoral candidate Greg Miller ('86, BS, geology; '88, MS, geology) has developed a low-cost,



easy-to-use analytical kit which may soon provide researchers and technicians with a better method of differentiat-

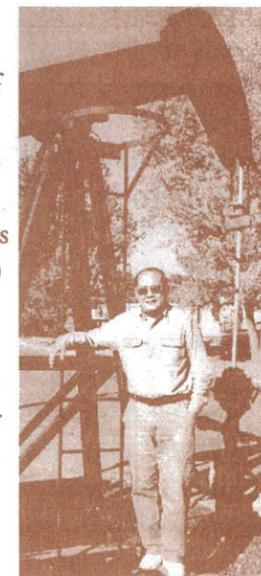
ing the various species of arsenic detected in groundwater and other sources of drinking water.

Up to \$99

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Miller expects to hear soon whether or not the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will officially approve and validate the new kit, along with its associated method of arsenic analysis.

PRRC Director Wins Award — Dr. Robert L. Lee, the director of New Mexico Tech's Petroleum Research and Recovery Center (PRRC), was named recipient of the New Mexico Oil & Gas Association's (NMOGA) Pete Porter Award for 2000. The award is for individuals who have distinguished



themselves as "outstanding citizens of New Mexico who have made significant contributions to the state."

Tech Team Does Well in Mini Baja West Competition — A team of New Mexico Tech mechanical engineering students took first place in the sales competition at Mini Baja West, an annual competition sponsored by the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE). The competition was held in April 2000 on the campus of Kansas State University. Competitors come from colleges and universities throughout North America. Tech plans to compete in the next Mini Baja, to be held April 26-28

Mini Baja West challenges students to design a four-wheel, single seat, off-road recreational vehicle that is capable of negotiating rough terrain without damage to the vehicle or driver. During the three-day competition, teams compete in events such as design, cost, safety, sales presentation, hill climb, maneuverability, acceleration, and endurance. New Mexico Tech's team members were Kevin Au, Larry Landon, Jason Kemp, Chris Durand, John Vandercamp, Roni Dees, Sean Danby, and Steven Ball.

Tech Ranks Highly for Chemical Engineering Research Spending — New Mexico Tech was ranked among the top 25 universities in the nation in terms of how much the school spends on chemical engineering research and development by *Chemical & Engineering News*. New Mexico Tech was listed in the 20th position overall, with almost \$4.5 million spent on

chemical engineering R&D for Fiscal Year 1998.

Miners Soccer Team Wraps Up Season – New Mexico Tech's men's soccer team, the Miners, wrapped up their Fall 2000 season, their first fall season in the Albuquerque Soccer League with a record of 5-2-1. The Miners are tied for third place out of eleven teams in one of two 3rd divisions within the league. The Miners hope to improve that standing to at least the second spot, which would allow them to relegate up to the 2nd division for the year 2001-2002. Since the Miners are new to the Albuquerque league, they must start in the lowest division, and relegate up to the



higher divisions. The Miners are coached by Dr. Paul Fuierer, associate professor of materials engineering. Regular season games are held on Sundays in Albuquerque. Dates for the 2001 games are posted at www.nmt.edu/mainpage/calendar/mastercal.html. There is also a tournament held regularly in Socorro early in February.

New Faculty

MARY DEZEMBER

Title: assistant professor of English

Education: B. A., University of Evansville in Evansville, Ind.; M. A., Ph.D., Indiana University at Bloomington

Research Interests: poetry, science journalism

Other: "I plan to become active with students who are interested in poetry, perhaps initially by coordinating poetry readings and conducting non-credit creative writing workshops," Dezember says.



SUSAN FIELD

Title: assistant professor of English

Education: B.A., M.A., Ph.D., University of New Mexico; M.L.S., Peabody College, Nashville

Research Interests: American romanticism, especially Emerson; philosophy and literature, American nature writers, and writing

Other: "I was hired to teach writing and philosophy at Tech, and because of the considerable amount of interest that's been expressed by my students concerning various topics related to



Eastern religions, I'd eventually like to put a course together which explores Eastern religions and philosophies," Field says.

SIDDHARTH PANDEY

Title: assistant professor of chemistry

Education: M.Sc., Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur; Ph.D., University of North Texas

Research Interests: optical spectroscopy, fluorescence, molecularly organized assemblies

Other: Pandey has spent the past two years working as a post-doctoral research fellow and instructor at the State University of New York at Buffalo. He has written or co-written over 50 research publications in his career and has made nearly 30 presentations on his research at various scientific conferences.



THOMPSON SARKODIE-GYAN

Title: associate professor of mechanical engineering

Education: B.S., M.S., Technical University Magdeburg, Germany; M.S., Ph.D., Technical University of Berlin, Germany



Research Interests: measurement science, instrumentation, dynamic systems and control, robotics, machine vision and pattern recognition, soft computing, biomedical engineering, mechatronics systems

Other: Sarkodie-Gyan worked as a faculty member at the University of Teesside in the United Kingdom, and, prior to that, as an assistant professor of electrical and computer engineering at the University of New Mexico. One of Sarkodie-Gyan's many inventions is a sensor that detects specific chemical odors—a device which will soon be retrofitted for use in a land-mine-detecting robot.

OLIVER W. WINGENTER

Title: assistant professor of chemistry

Education: B. S., San Jose State University; Ph.D., University of California at Irvine

Research Interests: chemical processes that control "global warming" and stratospheric ozone depletion

Other: Wingenter conducted his dissertation research under F. Sherwood Rowland. (Rowland shared the 1995 Nobel Prize in chemistry for his research work done in 1974, in which he predicted that chlorofluorocarbons, or "CFCs," would deplete stratospheric ozone.)



LISA YOUNG

Title: assistant professor of physics

Education: B.A., Harvard University; Ph.D., University of Illinois

Research Interests: interstellar medium, star formation, molecular clouds, gas content and evolution of elliptical galaxies

Other: Young has been in Socorro every summer since 1990, conducting research at the VLA. She and her husband, Wes, who is a computer programmer at the NRAO, are the parents of a two young sons, Karl, age 3, and one-year-old Joey.



People You Know

News items submitted between June and December 2000.

1960s

Robert Lee ('66, BS, geology) writes, "I currently reside in Connecticut with my wife Gloria; for the past 32 years, I have been with the Rogers Corporation, and for the last 22 years, I have been Corporate Manager of Environmental and Safety Engineering. I would like to communicate with Tech alumni, especially those of the 1960 to 1966 era. My e-mail address is: robert.lee@rogers-corp.com."

Julian Scott ('67, MS, chemistry) is living in Clovelly, New South Wales, Australia. He writes, "After all these years, I have very fond memories of my two years in Socorro, and I will return. I am now math tutoring in Sydney and

swimming in the Pacific every day. Regards to all."

1970s

Don Adams ('71, BS, geology) finished a five-year stint with the Center for Image Processing in Education in Tucson, Ariz., and now is with the Vail School District in Tucson. He teaches three science classes, coordinates the School to Work program, and helps with scheduling and transcripts. Don says, "Now with two kids in college (but no Techies, alas!), I would like to think I have more time for fly fishing and hiking, but it just isn't so." Don would like to hear from friends at dnavadams@aol.com.

Dr. Bruce Blevins ('72, BS, math) has been appointed as the acting Engineering and Field Services Division Manager at the New

Mexico State University Physical Science Laboratory (PSL). The division employs about one hundred engineers and scientists and provides electronic warfare field operations, jammer development, antennas for space and sounding rockets, and high reliability electronic systems for aerospace. He has assumed these duties in addition to maintaining his position as the Electromagnetic Systems Branch manager at PSL. Bruce invites Tech alumni to visit www.psl.nmsu.edu for their aerospace needs.

Anthony S. Meketa ('72, BS, geology; '75, BS, mining engr.) has been appointed president and CEO of Timminco Limited, a producer of specialty magnesium, calcium, and strontium metals and alloys, with offices in Ontario, Colorado, and New

South Wales. Anthony joined Timminco in 1989 and most recently was vice president of the Sales and Magnesium Fabricated Products Division.

Dr. Daniel D. Belk ('73, BS, math), who has served as a operations research analyst with the U.S. Army since 1982, recently was selected to be a member of the Army's Year 2001 Competitive Development Group (CDG), an elite team of 26 civilian and six military acquisition professionals.

Belk supports the Scout Attack Helicopter Program Manager's Office under the Deputy for Systems Acquisition at the Aviation and Missile Command in Huntsville, Ala.

Belk also teaches operations research at the Redstone Arsenal Graduate Center of the Florida Institute of Technology's extension campus in Huntsville, where he earned both his master's degree in systems management and his doctoral degree in operations research.

Michael Graham ('73, BS, geophysics) has joined with partners in forming Cymraec Exploration, Inc. During the last 27 years, Mike has worked for seismic contractors and independent and major oil companies. Mike worked for Mobil Oil Company for 16 years, spending the last ten years in Europe and the Middle East as an Exploration Supervisor and Geophysical Advisor for reservoir development groups. Since returning to the United States five years ago, he has worked for independents in the Permian Basin and in the Texas Gulf Coast region.

Cymraec Exploration, Inc. is a new venture applying modern seismic processing technologies to older 2-D datasets to locate bypassed oil and gas in the normal pressured section of the Gulf Coast. Cymraec is located in Houston, Texas.

Edward J. A. Burlbaw ('74, BS, physics; '76, MS, math) has been certified as a project management professional by the Project Management Institute. Edward is a division manager for the Physical Science Laboratory at New Mexico State University.

Gordon Moore ('75, BS, biology) writes, "I have been awarded the 2000 Educator of the Year award from the International Communications Industry Association (ICIA) for my work in training and education in the professional audio industry.

"I have been working for 12 years for Lectrosomics, a New Mexico-based manufacturer of high-end wireless microphones and signal processing equipment for the broadcast, motion picture, and installed sound markets. My work has taken me to installations in Thailand, Korea, Hong Kong, and Vienna.

"I'm also a member of the Rio Rancho Capital Improvement Plan Citizens Advisory Committee (CIPCAC), a member of the ICIA Professional Education and Training committee, and a senior faculty member for the ICIA Academy in Washington, D.C. (where I teach audio system design and installation classes).

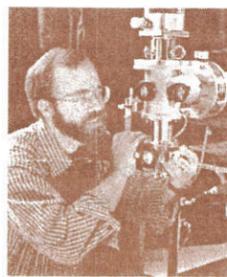
"My son, Sean, is a senior at Rio Rancho High School and is

expecting to major in architecture in college. My wife, Cara, is a substitute teacher for the Rio Rancho Public Schools with certification in Special Education."

Tom Dillon ('76, BS, ceramics) now lives in the Pittsburgh, Pa., area with his wife, Kathy Grossman, and three sons. As Director of Energy and Nuclear Projects for IT Corporation, he currently bids and executes large environmental and remediation projects for the U.S. Department of Energy and commercial nuclear facilities. Tom managed large remediation projects in Nova Scotia, Canada, and Nome, Alaska, prior to his current assignment in the corporate office.

James D. Steele, P.E. ('76, BS, environmental engr.) has been promoted to associate engineer by Camp Dresser & McKee, Inc., (CDM), a global consulting, engineering, construction, and operations firm. James has more than 20 years of experience in areas of civil and environmental engineering and wastewater treatment. In addition to his degree from Tech, he holds a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Nevada. James and his wife, Carolina, live in Albuquerque.

Scott Sandford ('78, BS, mathematics; '78, BS, physics), writes, "I currently work for NASA at the NASA-Ames Research Center in California. In May, I was



named an Ames Associate Fellow, an honor that is extended only every other year. I continue to work in the fields of meteoritics, infrared astronomy, laboratory astrophysics, and astrobiology, and, along with another Tech alumnus, **Michael Zolensky** ('77, BS, geology), continue to serve as a Co-Investigator on NASA's STARDUST Comet Sample Return Mission. I am currently living in the San Francisco Bay area with my wife, Betsy, and two sons, Nathan, 5, and Paul, 1.

Audrey Sartin ('79, BS, environmental engr.) writes, "I'm living in Pueblo, Colo., working as the environmental engineer at the Transportation Technology Center for the Association of American Railroads; two kids, second husband."

1980s

Jesse Chisholm (attended 1975-1982) is a self-described computer geek, living in Southern California, where he is Senior Software Engineer at Sensormatic Electronics Corporation, Video Services Division. In 1992, he married Alexandra Fraser Chisholm in Milpitas, Calif. They have two daughters, Christine Alana Rogers and Suzette Tamara Rogers. Jesse reports that his other vital statistics are, "Six acres, eight horses, ten cats, lost count of kittens."

Bryan Ulrich ('83, BS, mining engr.; '85, BS, geological engr.) has corrected a previous e-mail address he sent us. "The correct address is: bryan@kpco.com. The address I previously gave gets lost somewhere in the ethernet." If

you tried to reach Bryan and couldn't, please try again.

Dr. Karen Morrow ('84, BS, biology), after receiving her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine and her master's degree from Colorado State Univ., became a diplomate in the American College of Veterinary Radiology in 1996. She was also a national champion in water skiing in 1998. She has moved to Winter Garden, Fla., to pursue a career in private practice and enjoy water skiing.

Earl "Scooter" Berkheimer ('85, BS, petroleum engr.) and his wife, Karen, welcomed daughter Taylor Bryson Berkheimer on June 9, 2000. Earl is general manager of Gulf Links LLC in Muscat, Oman.

John Jenkins ('85, MS, geology) writes, "I recently accepted a position with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation in Sacramento, Calif., where I work in the modeling group that supports water resources management activities. This was a big move for me and my family after ten great years in Portland, Ore. My wife, Gretchen, and three kids — Ryan, 9, Kyle, 6, and Julia, 4 — are adjusting to the new climate (hot). I've kept in touch with several friends from my days at Tech but would love to hear from others. I can be reached at jjenkins@mp.usbr.gov."

Ward Herst ('86, MS, hydrology) and his wife, Debby, are the founders of Herst & Associates, a successful and rapidly growing hydrogeologic and environmental engineering firm in St. Louis. Debby is the owner and CEO of

the company and Ward is the managing director. In the two years since its founding, the firm has grown to employ 15 people and net over \$1 million per year. In addition to running a company, Debby and Ward have five children.

Chris Neill ('89, BS, math) got his master's degree from Florida Institute of Technology in 1994. He is living in Pohnpei, Micronesia, where he is an assistant professor at the College of Micronesia. He teaches mathematics, computer programming, and physical education. Chris adds, "I spend most of my free time scuba diving around southeast Asia. I plan on moving to Thailand or Taiwan in the near future." Chris would like to hear from friends at cneill@comfsm.fm

1990s

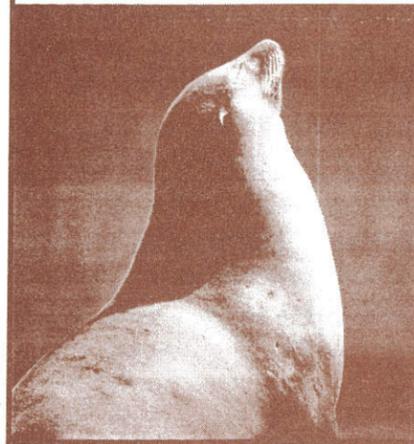
Bert Peters ('90, BS, computer science; '90, BS, math) writes, "My wife and I and our two Chihuahuas, Peanut and Cashew, just moved into a nice new home in San Jose, Calif. I work for Informatica as a technical instructor, so I travel around quite a bit."

Larry Rucker ('90, MST) has been named assistant principal and district athletic director of Hot Springs High School in Truth or Consequences, N.M. Originally from Roswell, Larry got his bachelor's degree in biology from Eastern New Mexico University and his master's in science teaching from New Mexico Tech. He has taught in the T-or-C Municipal School District for the past five

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years and has been assistant baseball coach for three years. His coaching experience, however, has spanned over 20 years in the sports of football, basketball, track, and baseball. Larry taught and coached at Quemado High School for 18 years before moving to T-or-C.

Larry's wife, Melissa, is a fifth grade teacher and has taught in T-or-C for six years. They have a daughter, Alicia, who attends HSHS and a son, Rigel, who is a sophomore at New Mexico State University.

Mark A. Bambenek ('92, BS, petroleum engr.) is a sales representative for Boncosky Oil Company in Elgin, Ill. Boncosky is Mobil Oil Company's ninth largest lubricant distributor in the United States. Mark says, "My position is in the Commercial Fuels division. Due to new laws

and EPA's Underground Storage Tank (UST) regulations, we help supply customers with Above Ground Storage Tanks (ASTs), for gasoline and diesel, for their fleets of trucks and commercial vehicles . . . I thank New Mexico Tech for the EXPERIENCE."

Dr. Mary Urquhart Kelly ('92, BS physics [astrophysics]; '92, BS, geophysics) and **Sean Kelly** ('93, BS, computer science; '93, BS, technical communication) became proud parents of Ariana Marie Kelly on July 21, 2000, at Huntington Memorial Hospital in Pasadena, Calif. Ariana entered the world at 56 centimeters (22 inches) and 4 kilograms (9 pounds).

Dr. Suzanne Linder ('92, BS, math; '92, BS, physics [astrophysics]) has started a three-year postdoctoral research position at Cardiff Univer-

sity in Wales, U.K., with the low-surface-brightness-galaxy group. She is also engaged to Roland Gunesch, a mathematician originally from Germany, whom she describes as an "amazing ballroom dancer." They are planning to marry in the summer of 2001.

Charlene (Matlock) Reaux ('93, BS, chemistry) writes, "I am currently a process development engineer for a semiconductor equipment manufacturer (FSI International) where I specialize in lowering the environmental impact of semiconductor fabrication. I co-authored the August 2000 cover article in *Semiconductor International* (www.semiconductor.net) on the use of deionized ozonated water for chemical reduction in semiconductor fabrication. My husband Adrian and I recently

Arizona in Child Protective Services investigating child abuse cases."

Erik Reckase ('95, BS, EE/math) and **Gail (Newell) Reckase** ('95, BS, math) became the proud parents of Stuart Daniel Reckase on October 12, 2000, in Albuquerque. Stuart was 8 lbs., 5 oz. and 21 1/4 inches long at birth. Erik is now working at Sandia National Laboratories in Albuquerque, and Gail works for a small environmental health contractor to Los Alamos National Lab.

Wenona (Henslee) Ayarbe ('96, BS, biology) and **John Ayarbe** ('97, BS, environmental science) were married in March 1999. Wenona writes: "After graduating, I hired on with L&M Technologies as a contractor to Sandia

National Laboratories' Microelectronics Development Laboratory (MDL). I work as an engineering technician for the Intelligent Micromachines Department at the MDL. I am also working on my MBA in technology management from the University of Phoenix. John is finishing his master's at Tech in hydrology and is working for a small consulting firm in Albuquerque."

Angela Partain ('97, BS, environmental engr.) and **Karl Thomas** ('97, BS, materials engr.) were married on Aug. 22, 1999, at the Fuller Lodge Rose Garden in Los Alamos. Angela is an environmental engineer with the Department of Energy at Knowles Atomic

Propulsion Laboratory in Schenectady, N.Y. Karl is a materials engineer with General Electric Corporate Research and Development. They reside in Malta, N.Y.

Bob Tyrrell ('98, BS, CS; '98 BS, math) and his wife, **Julianne (Baca) Tyrrell** ('98, BS, environmental engr.), live and work in Albuquerque. Bob is a website developer for Woodworker's Supply, Inc. and Julianne works as an environmental engineer for Applied Sciences Laboratory, Inc. Their son, Jonathan William Tyrrell, was born on October 26, 1999. Bob and Julianne were married in San Miguel Mission in Socorro on July 18, 1998, with their reception in Macey Center.

New Mexico Tech 2000-2001 Yearbook

This is your grand opportunity to assist our students as they revive the *Porphyry*, Tech's yearbook. The NMT Yearbook Production committee is soliciting for photo contributions for the 2000-2001 yearbook (*maximum of 6 years old*). Your contributions will be returned to you.

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Mark your Calendars now!
October 19 and 20

For you astronomy fans, this year's *49ers* coincides with the *Enchanted Skies Star Party*, New Mexico's foremost star party for amateur astronomers. Etscorn Campus Observatory will be open for all-night viewing! Enjoy both events!



Obituaries

[Note: in cases where memorial donations may be made to New Mexico Tech, the address is:

Advancement Office, New Mexico Tech,
801 Leroy Place, Socorro, NM 87801.]

Ernest Blessing, age 97, passed away peacefully in his sleep on Aug. 13, 2000, in Salt Lake City of natural causes. Ernest was born on April 9, 1903, in Schenectady, New York to William D. and Ella Williamson Blessing. He earned his bachelor's degree in mining engineering at the New Mexico School of Mines in 1927. He also earned a master's degree in metallurgy from the University of Utah in 1937. He had a 64-year career as a mining engineer and surveyor, working in Chile, Japan, New York, California, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Utah, for various firms and state and federal governments. Ernest retired as a regional mining supervisor for the U. S. Geological Survey after 35 years of service.

Ernest is survived by his wife of 60 years, Rhea, of Salt Lake City. Other survivors are his daughter, Elizabeth, and her husband, Paul Riemann, of Bountiful, Utah; four grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Dr. Howard Byerly, age 70, passed away on Sept. 12, 2000. He was born on Jan. 17, 1930, in Chicago. Howard's longtime ambition was to teach math and science. He earned his bachelor's degree at the University of Oregon at Eugene, and also took many classes at New Mexico Tech (in 1978 and 1979) and at Pacific Lutheran University in Washing-

ton state. He taught at Belen High School and at schools in Oregon. In 1983, he earned a Ph.D. in secondary education at Pacific Western University. Some of his graduate work was done at New Mexico Tech under the late Dr. Clifford Keizer, professor of chemistry. Byerly then worked as an analyst for 11 years at Boeing, retiring in 1995. He was a long-time resident of Tukwila, Wash.

Kyle Dillard, Jr., 79, of Belen, N.M., died on March 8, 2000. He was born to Kyle Dillard, Sr. and Irene McKinney Dillard in Breckenridge, Texas, in 1920. He was a member of the Golf Road Church of Christ in Belen. He was a longtime machine shop foreman for New Mexico Tech and retired in 1983. During this time, he was involved in many government projects, including the building of the first Sidewinder Missile for the U.S. government. Dillard served in the U.S. Army in Italy during World War II.

He is survived by his wife of 41 years, Dorothy (Dot); his daughters, Jan House and Denese Auge; his son, Kyle III; grandchildren, Jeff House, Steven House, Carrie Auge, David Auge and Melissa Auge, all of Belen, and Bradley Dillard of San Diego, Calif.; his nephew, Curtis DuPresit of Houston, Texas; and many special friends.

A memorial service was held on March 10, 2000. Donations may be made in his memory to the "Children's Playground Fund" in care of Golf Road Church, 14 Golf Road, Belen, NM 87002.

Richard Kimball Lyon, age 63, passed away on Oct. 11, 1999, after a courageous seven-month

battle with lymphoma. Born in Ross, Calif., Lyon earned his bachelor's degree in mathematics at New Mexico Tech in 1957. He was the owner/ principal of The Lyon Group in Pacific Palisades, Calif. He spent more than 30 years as a market and financial feasibility consultant on leisure-oriented real estate projects worldwide. He served clients such as the Walt Disney Co., LEGO, MCA, NBC, Warner/ Six Flags, the Monterey Bay Aquarium, and San Diego Zoo, and the Smithsonian.

He is survived by his wife, Lisa; two sons, Lars, and Conrad; his mother, Iris; and two sisters, Mary and Julie.

Paul Newman ('70, BS, geology) passed away on June 9, 2000, at his home in Menlo Park, Calif. Paul lost his life to pancreatic cancer after a several-month fight that included state-of-the-art treatment at Stanford University, where he was currently employed. He was a Vietnam vet, having served in the U.S. Navy on the *USS Oriskany* during the same time that Sen. John McCain was aboard. Paul loved life to the fullest and had many friends, several from his days at New Mexico Tech. He will be missed by all who knew him.

LeRoy J. Olson, Jr. ('97, BS, geology), age 26, of Ferry Boat Lane, New Braunfels, Texas, and former Raton resident, passed away Tuesday, July 4, at Brackenridge Hospital in Austin, Texas. He was working in Austin at the time of his death.

Leroy J. Olson, Jr. was born Tuesday, May 28, 1974, to LeRoy Olson and Mary Wilkinson Olson

in Raton, where he graduated from Raton High School. He was a 1997 graduate of New Mexico Tech, with a bachelor of science degree in geology. LeRoy was a sensitive soul who loved to learn, and his hobby was taking pictures. He won many awards with his pictures. After participating in national competitions, he won a trip to Chicago. In high school, he was active in 4-H and had many projects sent to the state fair where they won awards.

LeRoy was honored by being selected for *Who's Who in American High Schools* for three years. Being trilingual and a world traveler, LeRoy loved to learn about the cultures of different peoples. LeRoy taught English in Korea, and when he returned to the United States, he continued to learn about the Korean people as well as other Asian cultures. LeRoy's future was to include beginning work on a masters' degree from New Mexico State University in geological engineering and including foreign languages

He was preceded in death by his paternal grandparents, Edwin and Opal Olson of Farley, N.M., and his maternal grandparents, Lawrence and Martha Wilkinson of Carlsbad.

Survivors include his parents, LeRoy and Mary Olson of New Braunfels, Texas, one brother, Lawrence Olson of New Braunfels, one sister, Caroline Olson of Albuquerque, and several aunts, uncles, and cousins.

Memorial contributions may be made to American Diabetes Association, 525 San Pedro NE, Suite 101, Albuquerque, NM, 87108.