

Gold Pan

New Mexico Tech

Summer 2001

President's Club Dinner

The annual President's Club Dinner was held on Saturday, April 28. Among the chief honorees were Earl Herkenhoff and Dr. Osman Inal.

Earl Herkenhoff was presented with the President's Club Alumnus Award. Herkenhoff, from the Class of 1936, is the quintessential "Miner's Miner." As an international mining and metallurgical consultant with more than 60 years of experience in the industry, Earl has been named a Distinguished Member of the American Institute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers.

The Herkenhoff name has been associated with this university, one way or another, since the

early 1920s. Earl's mother, Mrs. Lillian Herkenhoff, was supervisor of the campus dining and residence halls from 1920 to 1933 and again from 1941 until her retirement in 1950. Her three sons, Gordon,



Gay Herkenhoff Dwyer, accepting the award from Tech President Dr. Daniel Lopéz on behalf of Earl Herkenhoff.

Walter, and Earl, all graduated from New Mexico School of Mines with bachelor's degrees in mining engineering. Earl's sister, Harriet, served for nine years as

secretary to the president under the administration of Edgar H. Wells, before marrying a student. Among other things, Harriet is credited with saving most of the official records of the school's early years in the infamous 1928 fire which destroyed the Old Main administration building.

After graduation, Earl quickly made a name for himself in mining and milling operations throughout the world. He is, among other things, an expert in the applications of cyclone separators in the processing of fine ores. He has published and presented a number of technical articles in scholarly journals, university symposiums, and industrial meetings.

(Continued on page 3)

New Mexico Tech Graduates 287

New Mexico Tech presented 287 degrees, including bachelor's, master's, and Ph.D.s, at graduation ceremonies on May 12. Awards to faculty and top students were also presented.

Top awards went to **Roseanna Neupauer**, a Ph.D. graduate now living in Virginia; **Rebecca Brown**, a graduate in electrical engineering from Grants; and **Timothy Wangler**, a chemical engineering graduate from Clovis.

Neupauer, who received a Ph.D. in hydrology, was presented with the Founder's Award, Tech's top award to a graduate student. It was the second time Neupauer had received the award, the first time being in 1999,



Roseanna Neupauer

when she graduated with a master's degree in mathematics. She was also presented with the Graduate Student Association's Appreciation Award. Neupauer, a native of Northampton, Penn., had served for several years as president of the campus's Graduate Student Association. In this role, she advanced several causes of interest to students, including a health care center. She completed her degree last fall and is currently an assistant professor at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville.

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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.

From the Editor:

[Editor’s note: Much of the news in *Gold Pan* is gleaned from the writings of George Zamora, who has been newswriter for New Mexico Tech for many years. Here’s a brief profile of George.]

GEORGE ZAMORA

George Zamora currently is the newswriter and photographer at the New Mexico Tech Public Information Office (PIO) and has served in that position for almost 15 years. Prior to working at the PIO, Zamora was the acquisitions librarian at the New Mexico Tech Library, when it was housed in the Spare Building.

As a longtime Tech employee and native of Socorro, Zamora is intrinsically familiar with the cultural, historical, and social makeup and demography of the university and surrounding area, a personal attribute from which he has often availed throughout his professional career.

Most of Zamora’s typical workday is dedicated to planning, researching, writing, editing, and disseminating a variety of written communications, including campus news releases, research stories, faculty and student profiles, recruitment materials, and advertisements . . . as well as the occasional speech or administrative correspondence. Invariably, taking photos to go along with the written accounts also occupies much of his time.



During “non-typical” days, which do crop up at New Mexico Tech from time to time, Zamora has been called upon to prepare faculty members and researchers for press interviews, serve as a news media liaison or campus spokesperson, and attend and assist with special media and public relations functions, such as press conferences and live demonstrations.

He also chips in, whenever he can, with special weekend and after-hours events associated with Tech’s Advancement Office, such as the annual 49ers Celebration, President’s Golf Tournament, and TechFest.

“Because of the constantly evolving nature of science and technology—which is often more revolutionary than evolutionary— I’m always challenged to look for innovative approaches to make seemingly staid research interesting to the common citizen,” Zamora relates. “As such, I try to keep abreast of what other science writers are doing in various media and how they make subjects which are inherently difficult to comprehend more palatable to a general audience . . . Though in my position, I consider myself more of a generalist than a journalist.”

New Mexico Tech Alumni Association

- President:* Theresa Annette Boracci (96, BGS)
- President-elect:* Joy Thompson (95, BGS)
- Past President:* Rose Baca (97, BS, technical communication)
- Treasurer:* Gaylyn Yanke (97, BS, business administration)
- Out-of-state vice president:* Sandra Grebe (91, MST)
- In-state vice president:* Harvey Padilla (00, MS, chemistry)
- Secretary:* Camille Gurule (00, AGS)

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Throughout the years, his extensive expertise in mining for strategic metal deposits has garnered him stints with the U.S. State Department and corporations around the country and around the world.

Earl now resides in Reno, Nev. New Mexico Tech is proud to count him as one of its staunchest supporters and most generous benefactors. His niece, Gay Herkenhoff Dwyer, accepted the award on his behalf.

Dr. Osman T. Inal, professor of Materials and Metallurgical Engineering, was presented with the President's Club Faculty Award. Inal came to New Mexico Tech in 1972, and he has served as chairman of the Department of Materials & Metallurgical Engineering since 1986.



Osman Inal

His long tenure at this university has been marked by excellence in both teaching and research. A world-renowned scientist, inventor, and innovator in the field of materials engineering, Inal has had over 190 research papers published and is the holder of several

patents, many of them related to the correlation of microstructures to the properties of materials. His extensive research interests also include processing of materials with explosives; photo-thermal solar collectors; radiation damage; ceramic, carbon fiber and composite technology; plasma assisted processing of materials; ion and laser surface modification; ductility of ordered polycrystalline intermetallics; and solid particle erosion. Since becoming chair of his department, he has supervised nearly 50 graduate students with thesis and dissertation topics in these research areas.

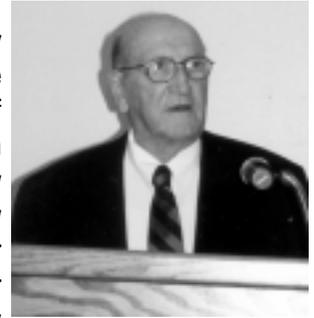
Professor Inal received his bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from Middle East Technical University in Ankara, Turkey, and his master's and doctorate degrees in metallurgical engineering from Columbia University.

Inal, the co-editor of the landmark textbook, *Frontiers in Materials Technologies*, has received the Distinguished Research Award from New Mexico Tech and was named an Eminent Scholar of New Mexico. He currently serves as a senior research metallurgist with Tech's Research and Economic Development Division.

The President's Club consists of those who have donated at least \$1,000 to any New Mexico Tech fund during the past year. To become a member of the President's Club, contact: Advancement Office, New Mexico Tech, 801 Leroy Place, Socorro, N.M. 87801, or call (505) 835-5525.

William B. Macey

New Mexico Tech extends special thanks to William B. Macey, who, as guest speaker at the President's Club Dinner, gave a fascinating 60-year retrospective on New Mexico Tech.



Bill Macey came to the School of Mines from Buffalo, New York, a few years prior to World War II, to study

petroleum engineering. While pursuing his undergraduate studies, he was also quite active in extracurricular activities. He was class president; starting pitcher for the Miners baseball team; member of the letterman's club; and sports editor. After graduation, he went on to serve in the United States Army Air Force, reaching the rank of captain. After his stint in the service, he married his longtime sweetheart, Jean Mullins.

In the ensuing years, Bill Macey made a name for himself in oil and gas development and production, serving as president and CEO for companies such as International Oil & Gas, Nielson Enterprises, Y-Tex Corporation, GEN Oil, Macey & Mershon Oil, Juniper Oil & Gas, and, currently, the Macey Corporation. He was a founding member and past chairman of the New Mexico Tech President's Club. He is also a philanthropist and volunteer board member on several non-profit organizations.

Macey has long been an ardent and unwavering supporter of New Mexico Tech, as well as an avid golfer at Tech's Golf Course. In 1984, New Mexico Tech bestowed one of its highest honors on William B. Macey by granting him an honorary doctorate. It was appropriate that the dinner was held in Macey Center, the construction of which he partially funded.

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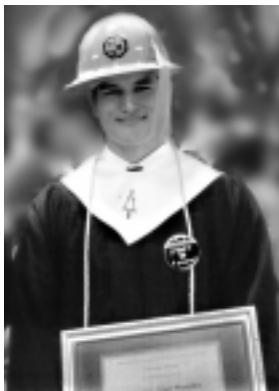
Brown was selected for the university's top award to an undergraduate student, the C. T. Brown Award, presented for scholarship, leadership, and conduct. Brown, who earned two bachelor's degrees in electrical engineering and mathematics with highest honors, also received the Cramer Award for the top female engineering graduate. Brown is a graduate of Grants High School and is the daughter



REBECCA BROWN

of Kenneth and Judy Brown of Grants. Brown has spent the past academic year and the past two summers as a research intern with Sandia National Laboratories' Mobile Robotics Group.

Wangler received New Mexico Tech's top award for a male



TIMOTHY WANGLER

engineering student. Recently, the Tech engineering faculty named him "Engineering Student of the

Year." During the past two summers, Wangler has worked as a process engineering intern at Intel Corporation's microchip fabrication plant in Rio Rancho. The results of his work have led to process improvements, which in turn led Intel to present him with a service recognition award and a job offer. Wangler says he plans on working at Intel after graduation. Wangler, a graduate of Clovis High School, is the son of John and Nora Wangler of Clovis.

New Mexico Tech's annual Distinguished Research Award was presented to Dr. John McCoy, professor of materials engineering. In his 10 years at Tech, McCoy has established a national reputation in polymer research, attracting



DR. JOHN MCCOY

research projects and outstanding graduate students. Before coming to Tech, McCoy had done post-docs at Sandia National Labs and the University of California at Berkeley. He had also received New Mexico Tech's Distinguished Teaching Award in 1993.

The Distinguished Teaching Award for 2001 went to Dr. Donald Weinkauff, chair of the Chemical Engineering Program. Weinkauff was key in getting this new program started during the past five years. Students commented on his



DR. DONALD WEINKAUFF

enthusiasm as an instructor and his willingness to give assistance outside of classes, as well as the time he spent advising the student chapter of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers.

New Mexico Tech presented its Langmuir Award for an outstanding research paper by a graduate student to Geoffrey Rawling, a graduate student in Earth sciences.



GEOFFREY RAWLING

Rawling was the lead author on a paper entitled, "Internal architecture, permeability structure, and hydrologic significance of contrasting fault-zone types," published in the professional journal *Geology* earlier this year. Rawling is a resident of Socorro.

The New Mexico Tech Alumni Association presented two awards to distinguished alumni: Eugene O'Connor and Dr. Roger Richman. (See related articles on pages 5 and 6.)

Eugene O'Connor presented with Distinguished Service Award

Eugene O'Connor, a 1953 graduate in metallurgical engineering, was presented with the New Mexico Tech Alumni Association's Distinguished Service Award for 2001 at commencement ceremonies on May 12.

Gene has long been an active supporter and vocal advocate of New Mexico Tech. In 1984, he founded an award to be given for scholastic achievement at graduation, and ever since, he has added to the fund and expanded the number of departments to whose graduates it is awarded. In addition, Gene, a Socorro resident, is active in attending open meetings concerning Tech and vocal in expressing his opinions.

Gene and his wife Milly returned to Socorro in 1993, as retirees. They first moved to Socorro in 1948, as newlyweds, when Gene enrolled as a student at the School of Mines.

"I was from Syracuse, New York, and I got my first taste of the desert climate in Texas, while I was serving in the Army Air Corps," recalls Gene. "Milly suggested I use my GI Bill to go to college, and I said, 'Let's find a school in the Southwest that teaches metallurgy.' We wrote away for college catalogs, and the one from the

School of Mines showed the students wearing blue jeans and flannel shirts. I said, 'That's for me!'"

Gene was a B-29 radio operator in 1946. In spite of all that training, he did not see combat. He says, "They called the war off before I really got into it. I was disappointed. I was young and I really wanted to see action!"

Gene did not attend his own graduation, because he finished after the fall semester of 1953 and immediately went to work in a steel mill in Syracuse. His career as a metallurgist took him many other places, including Pennsylvania, Iowa, Minnesota, and Brazil, but most of his career was spent working for Lockheed Missiles Division and living in Palo Alto, Calif.

Milly had a varied career. Since Socorro had a lack of jobs for schoolteachers during Gene's student days, she worked for Socorro Drug Company and the Security Title Abstract Company, learning a lot about the people and property in Socorro and Catron counties. After their daughter, Cathy, was in high school, Milly went back to school and became a registered nurse. She worked for Stanford Hospital and later for Red Cross Blood Services, from which she retired.



In the early 1990s, while looking for a place to retire to, the O'Connors found themselves visiting Socorro frequently, since their daughter was attending Tech at the time (she's a 1996 graduate). They moved back in 1993.

"Socorro was different and yet almost exactly the same as during our student years," Milly says. "And we liked the climate."

Gene started the award program because he thought that academic achievement ought to be honored. "While I was a student, awards appeared to be becoming based more on need rather than on scholarship," he says. "I wanted to give an award based on GPA, period. I started by giving a \$100 check to the top graduating metallurgy senior, since that was my major. Then it went to the best student in what became the Materials and Metallurgical Engineering Department. Over the years, I've added to the fund and expanded it to include more departments. As more departments were added to the list, 'The Eugene O'Connor Scholarship' seemed a bit ostentatious and the name was changed to 'Alumni Scholastic Award.'"

For the 2001 Commencement, Alumni Scholastic Awards were made to the top graduating seniors in ten departments. The winning student in each department received \$100. After the fund expands to include all departments, Gene hopes to increase the amount of the award.

Other contributions to the Alumni
(continued on page 10)

(continued from page 9)

Scholastic Award are welcome. Please send them to the Advancement Office, 801 Leroy Place, Socorro, N.M. 87801.

2001 RECIPIENTS OF ALUMNI SCHOLASTIC AWARD:

Biology, **John Bracht**

Chemistry, **Jennifer Leisch**

Computer Science, **Jeffrey Eliassen**

Electrical Engineering, **Rebecca Brown**

Engineering Mechanics, **Patrick Hunter**

Environmental Engineering, **Damian Luna**

Materials and Metallurgical Engineering, **Mary Harper**

Math, **Rebecca Brown**

Physics, **Vanessa Berg**



Technical Communication, **Martha Jonas**



Roger Richman presented with Distinguished Achievement Award

The New Mexico Tech Alumni Association presented its 2001 Distinguished Achievement Award to Dr. Roger Richman, a 1950 graduate in metallurgical engineering.

In the course of a very successful career, Roger Richman always remembered his roots at Tech. He has served on graduate student theses committees and nurtured faculty and students with joint publications. During his many years of association with the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) a research consortium of utility companies in Palo Alto, Calif., he has aided or been responsible for many of the research contracts New Mexico Tech has received from that organization.

"I have worked most with Dr. Osman Inal and Dr. Gillian Bond of the materials engineering department," Richman says. "With Dr. Bond, I have been working on problems related to biomimetics, which is the mimicry of biological systems by non-biological ones. We began by looking over the field to see if there were areas that electric utilities ought to be interested in, and it turned out that there were a number synergies. One had to do with capture and immobilization of carbon dioxide products. Dr. Bond and I have pursued research in this area. With Dr. Inal, I worked on a practical project, putting a desirable coat-

ing on plain steel to resist certain kinds of erosion. We did some explosive welding, and the project turned out to be quite successful."

Richman was born in Newark, N.J., and says he came to Tech as "... a matter of economics. Tuition was \$50 a semester in those days." He started as a mining engineering major but switched over to metallurgy. After graduation, he served in the Army for two years; then he began working for the National Lead Company of Ohio, which operated a site for the Atomic Energy Commission. Richman was group leader for uranium production development at the Atomic Energy Commission's Feed Production Center.



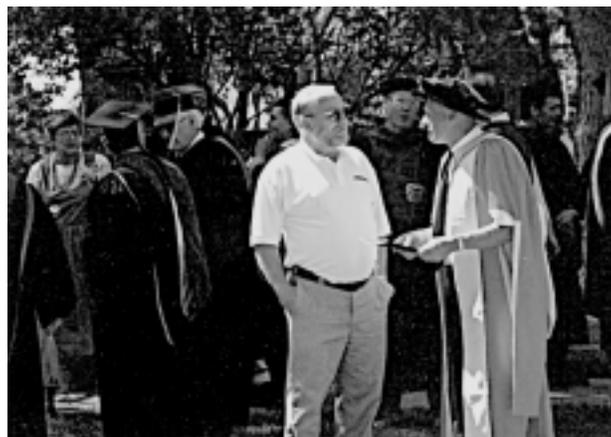
After a couple of years, he decided to get a graduate degree and attended Lehigh University, where he earned a Ph.D. in 1958. He then went to Ford Motor Co., where, for more than 17 years, he served as supervisor and staff scientist in several departments of the Engineering and Research Staff.

From Ford, Richman went to EPRI as project manager of materials support in the Fossil Fuels and Advanced Systems

(Continued on page 11)

In the last issue of **Gold Pan**, the final line was inadvertently omitted from the story "Student Co-Authors **Nature** Article." The final sentence, in full, was, 'The **Nature** article, titled "Discovery of Radio Emission from the Brown Dwarf LP944-20," is shaking up the astronomical community because the existence of such powerful emissions from a brown dwarf could shed light on the dividing line between how stars and planets are formed.'

Graduation Ceremony, May 2001



The Class of 1951

Bottom row	Second row	Third Row
Seymour J. Damsé	Reijo Deak	Russ. Dukson
Neil Burr	Vinon Rung	Jim Brookman
Max Jacobsen	Bob Galt	Jack Kruppenbach
Don Diebert	Jim Post	John Rumm
John Hand	Capit. Conker Dies	Bob Bard
Mike Wolf	Wayne Myers	Floyd Ballentine
Joe Morrison	Wade Schwetemberg	John Bankert
Walter Coulboms	Tom Menck	Paul Davis
	Ken McPeters	Robert Whitehall
	Don Ryan	John Rabbey
		Gerald Preston
		Earl Scheffer
		Dale Patton
		Arnold Russell
		Walter Biddle
		Mike Clevenger
		John Baker
		Byron Silvertooth
		Paul Dulantaky
		Markus Finkbein
		Dick Kenner
		Bill Colburn



There's no better way to celebrate being a Tech alum than returning for a reunion. The Class of 1951 created a memorable weekend on May 11th and 12th. Our visit with old and new friends was truly special for the classmates, their spouses, and friends.

It was evident during the reunion that friendships made 50 years ago still exist. With all the friendly banter and reminiscing, everyone had an enjoyable time. We extend special thanks to Dr. Clay T. Smith, Professor Emeritus of Geology, who greeted the Class of 1951, Regent Robert E. Taylor, who gave the welcoming address, and Steve

Bobinsky, Director of the Office for Advancement, who gave an entertaining presentation that compared Tech in 1951 to Tech in 2001.

Class of 1952 – mark your calendars now! Your Golden Reunion will take place on May 10 and 11, 2002. A mailing will be sent as the time draws closer.

Back Row: Donald Diebert, James Post, Kenneth McPeters, Floyd Balentine, John Borkert, Gerald Preston
Front Row: John Rhodes, Robert Reiner, Michael Clevenger, John Kruppenbach



People You Know

News received from March to May 2001

1950s

Dr. Rudolph (Rudy) Jacobson (57, BS, metallurgy; 64, MS, metallurgy; 71, Ph.D., geoscience) writes, "I live in Austin, Texas, and my e-mail address is solmin2@prodigy.net. All my children and grandchildren live 'down the street.' I am vice president of engineering, for a solution mining company in the United States and Malaysia, Solution Mining Sdn. Bhd., a large "experimental" biomining project in Malaysia. We will leach and precipitate metals biologically. My colleagues and I have been in the solution mining of uranium in the United States since the early 1970s. It was a wonderful time to develop this technology and our plant designs and groundwater systems to recovery the leached uranium were successful and had no waste products.

"We will be mostly into creating and operating humanitarian mining projects in third world countries, but mining projects will not be all we are supposed to accomplish. We have solar power projects, antibiotics, biobatteries, huge waste cleanup projects, and the production of natural gas from depleted oil fields with a bacteria that is quite at home is salt water. Our target is those countries that have the resources, but no cash, and no technology. We intend to make and sell solar cell panels very cheaply."

1960s

Dr. Zane Spiegel (62, Ph.D., hydrology) is a member of Santa Fe's Water Quality Task Force. He is the principal author of a petition to the EPA on "La Cienega Valley Area Sole Source Aquifer, Santa Fe County, New Mexico." from October 2000 to March 2001.

Dr. Raul A. Deju (66, BS, math; 1969, Ph.D., hydrology) is president and Chief Operating Officer of ISG Resources, the world's largest company for the processing, transporting, and marketing of coal combustion products used in the manufacture of building products (mortars, stuccos, block, and cement substitutes.) The company has production facilities in 91 locations and is the leading recycler of coal combustion products in the U. S. A., with sales exceeding \$220 million per year.

1970s

Dr. Daniel Blodgett (71, BS, geology; 73, MS, geology) (he also has an MD from UNM) writes, "I have moved to Oakhurst, Calif. After two years teaching family medicine at the University of Texas Medical Branch medical school in Galveston, Texas, I decided to open my own solo practice here in California. I do an office-based family practice but emphasize alternative methods of healing. I offer medical acupuncture, chelation therapy, craniosacral therapy, nutritional therapy and advanced energy healing. I brought my fiancée, Tracy Weyant, from Galveston to join me here, and she is developing her massage practice. Oakhurst is in the Sierra foothills only 15 miles from the southwest entrance to Yosemite National Park. It is green and moist after the winter rains. I invite my old friends from Tech to visit us if in the area."

John Ennis (74, BGS; 77, BS, geology) writes, "By the end of summer, I will have earned a master's in geography with an emphasis in geographical information technologies from the University of New Mexico. I plan to start work on a Ph.D. in geology. I am working in the Earth and Planetary Sciences Department with Lou Scuderi,

a well known climatologist. We will be designing and implementing a comprehensive GIS model which will include environmental, ecological, hydrological, and economic parameters for the northern half of the Rio Grande Watershed." John and his wife, Bonnie Ross, live in Albuquerque.

John I. Ajie (79, BS, mining engr.) works for The Washington Group and has just been promoted to general manager of Powder River Operations, which includes mining operations in Montana and Wyoming. He has moved from Boise to Hardin, Mont.

He adds, "My first daughter, Beverly Ajie, born in Socorro, (mom Sandra Nordman) will graduate from the University of Oregon in Eugene, this June 2001 with a bachelor's degree in biology. We have two other wonderful kids: Whitney Ajie, 14, and Austin Ajie, 9."

1980s

John Hingtgen (85, BS, geology) writes, "After working as a geologist, environmental scientist, and natural-resources planner, I returned to school to pursue a master's in energy studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. I will do my thesis research in renewable energy. Friends can reach me at jsh_uu@yahoo.com."

Ward Herst (86, MS, hydrology) and his wife Debra are executive officers of Herst & Assoc., a firm they founded in 1998. The firm was recognized as the Number One Service Provider in the United States by the National Business Incubator Association. The Hersts received the award on May 20, 2001 in San Jose, Calif.

Herst & Associates, Inc. is a

hydrogeologic, hydrochemical, and general environmental consulting firm located in St. Louis, Mo. Herst & Associates, Inc. was formed after clients and potential clients consistently commented on the need for increased responsiveness and client awareness by consultants. Ward provides his home telephone number to his clients, and regularly receives calls as early as 3:30 a.m., and on Sunday nights as the clients prepare for their next work week. The recognition as No. 1 Service Provider is a validation of the extra effort that the Herst & Associates, Inc. staff have placed on client services.

Dianna K. Justis-Fairhurst (86, BS, geological engr.) was appointed administrative director of the Hill Country Montessori School (grades 1 - 4) in Boerne, Texas. Dianna is married to David Fairhurst, who is a technical sales manager with Schlumberger in San Antonio. They have two children: Caitlin, 7, and Hannah, 4.

Miguel R. Sanchez (86, BS, petroleum engr.) writes, "I am currently working in Venezuela for Exxon-Mobil, as an engineering supervisor for a new production facility which is currently producing 170,000 barrels of oil per day. I started working in Venezuela in April of 1999 as the startup supervisor for this project and stayed on in my current capacity upon successful completion of the startup. I also do some ranching on the side in New Mexico in my time off."

Dr. Cynthia Sisson (88, BS, physics) writes, "My husband Dr. Paul Sisson (87, BS, math; 87, BS, physics) and I are both associate professors at LSU-Shreveport, Paul in mathematics, and me in physics. We have slightly new

job descriptions: Paul will be chair of the Mathematics Department and interim chair of the Computer Science Department starting in August. I will be the Elmer N. Simon Distinguished Teaching Professor for the next two years (though any who know me know that I'll have a hard time living up to the 'distinguished' part)."

1990s

Dr. Julie Bongiani (91, BS, chemistry) (she also holds a master's and Ph.D. in biochemistry from New Mexico State University) writes, "In 1997, I headed out to New York for a post-doctoral fellowship in voltage-gated ion channels. This evolved into a post-doctoral fellowship in the area of retinoid biochemistry and metabolism. As luck would have it, I wound up returning to the West: the lab I was in re-located from New York to UC Berkeley in California. Recently, I finished my post-doc and joined a start-up pharmaceutical company, OPTIME Therapeutics.

"Currently, I live in Sonoma, with my fiancé, Scott Wylie. Scott is a psychologist with the state of California. We recently announced our engagement, and are planning to be married October 6, 2001."

Craig Hier (92, BS, computer science; 94, MS, computer science) is pleased to announce, "My wife, Edi, and I gave birth to our first child, Christopher, on April 9th. He weighed in at a healthy 9 pounds, 14 ounces. You can check out the pictures at my website www.hierview.com.

James W. Perea (93, BS, electrical engr.) and his wife, Rachel, welcomed the birth of their first daughter,

Katrina Paige Perea, on Feb. 6, 2001. James is the deputy program manager for SAIC on the Rapid Test Support Contract for the Air Force Operational Test and Evaluation Center.

Lauren Hurtgen (96, AGS) and her husband, Bryan, welcomed Samantha Taylor Hurtgen, weighing in at 8 lbs., 11.5 oz, on April 29, 2001. Baby pictures are available on their webpage at www.expage.com/page/laurenhurtgen.

Jonathan Reiner (97, BS, mineral engr.) is working for the U. S. Navy as an engineer in Tucson.

Rebecca (Ideus) Taylor (99, BS, technical communication) and Nathan Taylor (99, BS, technical communication) were married at The Southern Plantation in Missouri City, Texas, on March 31, 2001. Both continue to live in Spring, Texas, and work for Compaq Computer Corporation. At the end of last year, Rebecca transferred to a new position as the lead Information Manager for a server solutions group, and is currently serving on the planning committee for the Society for Technical Communication (STC) Region 5 conference. Nathan, who works as a multimedia engineer, recently received a promotion, as well as local STC competition awards for several of his projects.

2000s

Kevin Au (00, BS, engineering mechanics) writes, "Having a great time working for Lockheed-Martin's Missiles and Space Operations in the California Bay Area. I'm currently working in systems engineering on a missile program."

Gary Olsen Retires

by Chelsea Buffington

(reprinted by permission from El Defensor Chieftain)

Drawn by green chile and an intriguing student body, history professor Gary Olsen came to New Mexico Tech in 1970, and is only now leaving for a new adventure.

On his first trip to Tech, in 1970, Olsen began his discovery of one of his favorite foods: green chile. "One of the things that impressed me most," Olsen said, "was being invited to dinner at Tech history professor Paige Christiansen's home."

"On top of the steak was this green stuff. I had no idea what it was," he said. Upon tasting it, Olsen said, "I thought it was really wonderful. At that moment, I thought, 'I really want to come work here.'"

Three months later, Olsen began his first day of class at Tech, a school quite different from his own educational experiences. Olsen, a native of Washington, received his bachelor of arts in history from Washington State University. He then went on to the University of Arizona for his master's degree and then into a doctoral program at the University of Oregon. However, one year later, Olsen returned to Arizona to finish his Ph.D.

Olsen said, "When I first came here, I really felt like a stranger in a very strange land, coming from a liberal arts background and having attended large public

universities."

But, he said it did not take long for him to adjust. "I tremendously enjoyed the small classes and getting to know people. I discovered very quickly I liked the students. They were . . . feisty."

"In those days," Olsen said, "Tech ... was a much more tightly knit community. We used to have great parties in the old Driscoll Hall. We all packed in." But those parties at Tech are no more, partly thanks to Olsen himself, which he readily admits.

In 1975, a new administration came in, and two years later, Olsen became dean of students. The new adminis-

tration, he said, had concerns about the legal ramifications of some activities at Tech, particularly the drinking and purchase of beer with university fees. As dean, he immediately discontinued the use of university fees for beer purchases. In the 1970s, there were two particularly wild weekends each year, 49ers, which still exists today, and the St. Patrick's Day celebration, which does not.

"There was benevolent anarchy that pervaded campus on those two weekends every year," Olsen said. "The St. Pat's that I knew always involved naked

people running around campus, painted green." Olsen said, as the years wore on, students would try to outdo the St. Pat's celebration from the year before.

"One year," he said, "I got my hands tied behind my back and was thrown into the duckpond. I was not a very happy dean. Then, there were rumors that animal sacrifices were taking place during St. Pat's." Shortly thereafter, St. Pat's was closed down.

"It was a decision on the part of the faculty that St. Pat's had gotten out of hand," he said.

In 1985, Olsen gave up his spot as dean but was drawn back to the position in

1991 because of the students. "I kind of missed interacting with the students," Olsen said. As he looks towards retirement, he said he will miss all of Tech – the students, staff, faculty, grounds and the overall feel of campus. "My overall feeling about Tech is extremely positive. I love the place." Olsen said, "It's going to be very hard to leave."

Olsen and his wife, artist Vivian Olsen, are moving to Oregon where he can fish and golf, she can paint and they can both hike all over the area. Gary will teach summer school and then head off on his new adventure. He said, "Vivian and I are leaving not because we want to leave here but because we're drawn to another really neat place. We're really going to miss Tech."



(Continued from page 6)

Division. At EPRI, Richman provided consultation and project management in R&D involved with metals and ceramics for power generation and coal conversion technologies. He was then vice president and general manager at Aptech Engineering Services, Inc., an engineering consulting firm in Palo Alto. Since February 1985, he has been Technical Director and a principal at Daedalus Associates, Inc., in Mountain View, California.

Richman and his wife, Beverly, have been married since 1953. Their son, Joshua, is president of Straw Hat Pizza, a cooperative in California and Nevada.

Obituaries

Willow M. Burand, age 86, a 1953 alumnus and longtime friend of New Mexico Tech, passed away in Albuquerque on Sunday, April 15, 2001. He had been a resident of Albuquerque since 1990. He is survived by his wife, Jean Burand of Albuquerque; son, Charles R. Burand of Monticello, Utah; four grandchildren; six great grandchildren; and brothers, Donald Burand and wife, Lola of Adrian, Mich and Dale Burand and wife, Vera, of Midwest City, Okla.

Mr. Burand married Jean Kerr on April 10, 1943, in Montgomery, Ala. After serving in the Army Air Corps during World War II, Burand attended New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology, where he earned a bachelor's degree in mining engineering. He spent many years working in

Alaska for the state and taught at the University of Alaska. He was a member of Shepherd of the Valley Presbyterian Church.

In lieu of flowers, friends were asked to please lend a hand to someone in need, or make a contribution to The Storehouse, 106 Broadway SE, Albuquerque, N.M., 87102, or to a favorite charity.

Willard Charles Christoffer, age 54, a 1971 graduate of New Mexico Tech in environmental engineering, died suddenly on May 14, 2001, as the result of injuries sustained during a training drill with the Western Springs (Ill.) Fire Department. Willard had been a member of the fire department for approximately 15 weeks as a paid-on-call probationary firefighter.

Willard was married to Lucy (Lucas) since 1990.



They lived in Western Springs since 1990. Besides Lucy, he is survived by two children: Charles, 8, and Alyssa, 6. He is also survived by his sister Gail Christoffer Baruch and brother-in-law Michael.

He was employed by ATC Associates, Inc., (Downers Grove) as a regional director of Industrial Hygiene Services. He was a Certified Industrial Hygienist, as well as a Licensed Industrial Hygienist and a diplomate of

the Academy of Industrial Hygiene. For many years, Willard was an active member of the American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA), serving as the president of the Chicago section from 1983 to 1984. He was currently a member of their Asbestos Analysis Committee.

Willard conducted classes and seminars nationwide on asbestos, hazardous materials, and other environmental issues. He also provided expert testimony in court cases related to asbestos issues.

In addition to his degree from New Mexico Tech, Willard also held a Master of Business Administration (Finance) from Saint Xavier College (Chicago), awarded in 1988.

Willard was an active member of St. John's Lutheran Church (LaGrange, Ill.) He was a member of the Senior Choir and the Board of Church Properties.

Willard loved being with his family and looked forward to vacations so he could introduce his children to the beauty and complexities of the United States and Canada. He loved reading to the children, singing, vegetable gardening, cooking and grilling, and baking bread.

Dr. Frank Kottlowski, former director of the Bureau of Mines, passed away on April 18, 2001, at the age of 80. Frank was born on April 11, 1921, to Frank Charles and Adela (Markworth) Kottlowski near Indianapolis, Ind. Frank was an aerial navigator and

photographic interpreter for the 8th Air Force from 1942 to 1945. He attended Indiana University and received his bachelor's degree in geology in 1947, his master's in structural geology in 1949, and his Ph.D. in economic geology in 1951. In 1951, he accepted a position at the New Mexico Bureau of Mines as an economic geologist. He was director of the Bureau and New Mexico State Geologist from 1974 until his



retirement in 1991.

Frank was preceded in death by his brother, Harold.

He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Florence (Chrisco) of Socorro; daughters Karen Harvey and her husband, Albert of Brigham City, Utah, Jan Wallace of Socorro, and Dianna Schoderbek and her husband David of Farmington, N.M. four grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

A memorial fund is being established in Frank Kottlowski's name. Contributions may be sent to: Advancement Office, New Mexico Tech, 801 Leroy Place, Socorro, N.M. 87801.

Richard Lannen, Class of 1951, passed away in 1985. Lannen graduated from New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology with a bachelor's degree in petroleum engineering. His career consisted of over 20 years with Conoco, followed by eight years in Iran with the oil and petro-

chemical company there. Lannen was then a drilling consultant in Libya, and finally worked in Saudi Arabia with ARAMCO. He served as a petroleum engineer, District Superintendent, and drilling engineer for Conoco. Overseas he was primarily a drilling and production engineer.

Notably, he was the engineer responsible for some of the first deep gas wells (approximately 20,000 ft) in the Permian Basin. His career in Iran and Saudi Arabia also involved drilling for gas and oil in deep and difficult situations.

His widow, Rosalie Lannen, lives in Dallas. His two sons, Richard and Larry Lannen, also live in the Dallas area. Five grandchildren also survive him.

Eiko Masui Parson, 72, a resident of Socorro, NM, died after a battle with cancer, on Monday, May 14. She was born in Osaka, Japan on March 23, 1929. During the American occupation of Japan after World War II, she met, and on November 26, 1951, married Charles E. Parson, Jr. He preceded her in death after 43 years of marriage. After being stationed in San Francisco, Louisiana, and Texas, in 1960 Eiko and Charles settled in Socorro with their young family. Eiko became active in the community and for many years helped manage the Socorro animal shelter as an unpaid volunteer.

Eiko was a devoted mother and grandmother who loved animals, gardening and crocheting. Her many close ties to Tech included her daughter, Mary Franklin, who worked at Tech for many years in

Student Accounts; Mary's husband Joe Franklin, who graduated from Tech in 1990 and has, for many years, been the manager of Data Processing at Tech's Information Systems Division; and Eiko's daughter, Brenda Parson, who is the contracts assistant with the PRRC.

In addition, Eiko is survived by her daughters, Diana Lincoln and husband, Ray, Patricia Rosenthal and husband, Andy of Las Cruces, five grandchildren: Leslie Rosenthal, Charlene Lincoln, Michelle Lincoln, Eric Rosenthal and Alex Franklin; her sister-in-law, Lois Bell and husband Richard, of Socorro; Paul Stinnett, who was like a son to her; a cousin Yukiko Kitanaka and husband Takao of Osaka, Japan; close friends, Randy Jackson and Frances Green; and many in-laws, cousins, nieces and nephews. In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorials be made to the Socorro Humane Society spay-neuter program, P.O. Box 451, Socorro, NM 87801.

Many Tech alumni will remember Eiko for her generosity, kindness, and quick wit. It was not unusual for her to open her home and her heart to Tech students in need. Randall Jackson, class of 1978, is one of the many students who were fortunate enough to enjoy her friendship. He is searching for students like himself to join him in building a small memorial, on campus, in her honor. If you are interested, please contact Rose Baca, rbaca@admin.nmt.edu or 1-800-428-TECH, #4

David Matter, a 1950 alumnus and recipient of the Alumni

Association's Distinguished Achievement Award for 2000 passed away on April 26, 2001.

David was born May 22, 1925, in Philadelphia, Pa., a son of Charles and Hanna Nathans Matter. He graduated from high school in Philadelphia in 1941. After serving in the military and graduating from the New Mexico School of Mines with a bachelor of science degree in metallurgical engineering, he worked for Pitman-Dun Laboratories, Frankford Arsenal, in Philadelphia for a number of years. From 1950 to 1956, he was employed by the manufacturing research department at International Harvester Co. in Chicago, Ill. He started as a research technician and was successively promoted to research metallurgist and head of the metallurgical and melting sections. He worked on melting and metallurgy of gray iron, malleable iron, ductile iron, and steel castings. He consulted with the corporation's engineering departments on material selection and casting design, consulted for the corporation's foundries (13 at that time) on applications of new foundry processes and materials, and introduced ductile iron production, shell molding, and other new processes.

From 1956 to 1992, he was employed with Ohio Ferro Alloys Corp, now SiMetco of Canton, Ohio. He joined the company as the manger of foundry service. In 1970, he was named assistant vice president and general sales manager and was responsible for sales and service in seven different locations around the country.

In 1974, he was named vice president of sales. In 1982, he was named corporate vice president and director. His duties included increased involvement in production and financial planning.

David was a member of the American Foundrymen's Society, American Society for Metals, Society of Automotive Engineers, American Society for Testing and Materials and the Ductile Iron Society. For the American Foundrymen's Society, he was the director and chairman of the society's Canton district chapter, the



national director and a regional vice president. In 1966, he received the society's "Award of Scientific Merit" and, in 1975, the society's highest honor, the "Penton Gold Medal," and was elected an honorary life member. For SAE, he was a member of Iron and Steel Technical Committee Division 9. As a member of ASTM, he was the chairman of the ductile iron and gray iron committees. He also was a member and served on the board of directors of the Ductile Iron Society. He was a member of Foundry Educational Foundation, in which he served on the board of directors from 1971 to 1976 and as president from 1975 to 1976. He was chairman of college evaluation and scholarship committees. He was member of Arrowhead Country Club in Canton, Ohio, where he served on

the board from 1967 to 1981 and 1983 to 1990 and as president from 1975 to 1977 and again from 1987 to 1989. He was a member of the board of governors for the Northern Ohio Golf Association. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army and received the ETO medal, a Bronze Star, the Silver Star, Combat Infantry Citation, the Distinguished Unit Citation, and Belgian Croix de Guerre.

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Patricia Helen Sommer Oberer Matter, of the home; a son, Michael Matter, and wife, Cyndie, of Sunnyvale, Calif.; stepsons, Karl Oberer, and wife, Jill, of Sandusky, Ohio, and Fred Oberer and wife, Nancy, of Frederick, Md.; stepdaughters, Linda Ratcliffe, and husband, William, of Hammondsville, Ohio, and Karen Haneke and husband, Bernd, of Durham; five grandchildren, Kathryn Oberer, Daniel Oberer, Elizabeth Oberer, Megan Oberer, and Russell Ratcliffe; and a sister, Sally Weinstein, of Phoenix, Ariz. He was preceded in death by a brother, Alfred Matter.

Obituary notices received

The Alumni Office received word of the passing of **William Rufus Von Tress**, Class of 1951, on May 12, 1999. No further word was available.

The Alumni Office received word of the passing of **Brent White** (69, BS, physics; 70, BS, computer science) in 1997 of leukemia. No further information was available.

The Alumni Office received word of the passing of **Sarah Jane Williamson** in November of 1998. She is survived by a son, Lorenzo Williamson Raras. No further information is yet available.

Tech Computer Center Alumni Account

Those of you who are members of the Alumni Association are currently entitled to a Tech Computer Center (TCC) account. Unfortunately, many of you received an e-mail that your TCC account would be deleted.

Please accept our apologies for any inconveniences you may have suffered due to the problems associated with computer upgrades and "growing pains."

To avoid future confusion, we have provided you with a simple method of establishing or maintaining a TCC account. Simply follow the three steps listed below.

1. Become a member of the Alumni Association (Annual or Lifetime Membership).
 - Pay annual membership dues of \$20 (New graduates of NMT

receive a complimentary one-year membership), or

- Donate \$200, individual, or \$350, alumni couple, for a Lifetime Membership, which supports the Alumni Lifetime Scholarship.

Membership payments can be paid:
 In person at Brown Hall, Room 111.
 By mailing a check or money order to the Alumni Association, Office for Advancement, 801 Leroy Place, Socorro, NM 87801, or by credit card. Contact the Office for Advancement at either (505) 835-5525 or (800) 428-TECH, ext. #4.

2. PREPAY the TCC fees.

- Computer Account Only (on-campus or telnet) -\$6.00 per year
- Computer Account and Off-Campus Modem Access - \$32.00 for 6 months

Any past due TCC fees/charges must be paid in full.

Payments of all TCC charges and fees can be made:

In person at the Cashier's window located downstairs in Brown Hall,
 By check mailed to the Attention of the Cashier's Office, Brown Hall, 801 Leroy Street, Socorro, NM 87801, or by credit card. Contact the Cashier's Office at (505) 835-5515.

3. Submit proof of Alumni Association membership and pre-payment of TCC fees to the TCC department secretary at the Tech Computer Center, Speare 117, New Mexico Tech, 801 Leroy Place, Socorro, NM 87801.

Alumni are solely responsible for all incurred TCC fees/charges regardless if you receive a billing statement or not.



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