

# ColoPam

New Mexico Tech

Spring 2002

## Is there a Tech Alumni Chapter Near You? *by Rose Baca*

We at the Alumni Office are beginning to establish some alumni chapters in cities that have many Tech alumni residents. Our reasons are:

- We wish to provide an organization where you, parents of current students, and other friends of New Mexico Tech can create an association that provides support and intellectual and social enrichment;
- We would also like to provide Tech with the opportunity to maintain connections with you, parents of students, friends of Tech, and prospective students;
- Alumni chapters can provide a networking resource for you and current Tech students, which could possibly evolve into internships, mentorship opportunities, and chapter scholarships; and
- Finally, we want to encourage support for Tech through programs such as development, student recruitment, career placement, community service, legislative advocacy, and professional expertise and encouragement.

Other good reasons for establishing a regional alumni chapter include:

- Many Tech alumni are recent graduates. You are busy establishing your career, not to mention raising a young family. We understand that taking time off to come to Socorro for a reunion may be difficult.
- Then there are those of you who are fortunate enough to be retired. Some of you find it difficult to travel to Socorro because you are busy enjoying your newfound adventures.
- We often hear many of you ask, "Where is John Q. Alumnus? What is he doing now?" Regional chapters provide you with the opportunity to rekindle old friendships, share success stories, and just have fun together. Why wait for your 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion. when you can meet right in your own area?



*Members of the Tech Albuquerque Alumni Chapter cheer the Scorpions hockey team to victory.*

Our first active Alumni Chapter is located in Albuquerque. Our first meeting was very successful. Many topics were discussed, and chapter members volunteered to call prospective students for the Admission Office. Elections for president, vice president, and secretary/treasurer of the chapter were held. Shari (Colella) Foley (91, BS, math and physics; 95, MS, math) was elected president, also elected were Lisa Guerra (77, BGS) vice president, and Don "Quatro" Baker, (93, BS, biology) secretary/treasurer.

On March 9, 144 Albuquerque Alumni Chapter members and friends attended a New Mexico Scorpions ice hockey game. They will meet again on June 22 during TechFest, which will be held at the Albuquerque Aquarium.

Thanks to the efforts of Andrew Montañó (94,BGS) we are already at work on establishing a Denver chapter. We plan to have our first meeting this summer.

For more information regarding Regional Alumni Chapters, contact Rose Baca, [rbaca@admin.nmt.edu](mailto:rbaca@admin.nmt.edu) or 1-800-428-TECH, ext. 4.

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*New Mexico Tech is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution.*

**New Mexico Tech Alumni Association**  
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*President-elect:* Camille Gurule' (00, BGS)  
*Past President:* Theresa Annette Boracci (96, BGS)  
*In-state vice president:* Millie Tourville (96, BGS)  
*Out-of-state vice president:* Denise Pompeo (99, BS, environmental engr.)  
*Secretary:* Gaylyn Yanke (97, BS, business administration)  
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**N.M. Tech  
Researchers  
Test Novel  
Methods of  
Detecting  
Pathogens**

by George Zamora

New Mexico Tech researchers currently are working on developing ultra-sensitive technologies for detecting certain bacteria in the environment before the pathogenic microorganisms become abundant enough to cause outbreaks of infectious diseases.

Although the university's Pathogen Detection Program was initiated by the Office of Naval Research over a year-and-a-half before anthrax-laden letters started making headlines across the United States, Tom Kieft and Snezna Rogelj of the New Mexico Tech Department of Biology now realize that the processes and technologies they are developing may soon have important implications in the nation's war against terrorism.

"Although we aren't working on specific bioterrorism agents like anthrax or smallpox, we are certainly making progress with some very real killers, especially those typically found in closed environments such as submarines," says Rogelj.

The New Mexico Tech biologists are teaming up with researchers at Yale University, the BioStar Corporation in Washington, D.C., and Battelle's Pacific Northwest and Oakridge national laboratories to develop a small, self-contained device which can be used by almost anyone to detect the presence of pathogens, even in the minuscule amounts that are found well before full-blown infections set in.



Tom Kieft

"This easy-to-operate, hand-held detection system could be used either aboard ship or at a remote location," says Kieft, "and, ideally, could be easily operated by someone who has been given minimal manual training, and could quickly provide the operator with a 'yes' or 'no' answer as to whether or not a pathogen is present."

Some of the pathogens detected by such a device could include a variety of airborne, waterborne, and foodborne microorganisms such as *Legionella*, which causes "Legionaire's Disease," *Streptococcus*, *E. coli*, *Campylobacter*, and antibiotic-resistant strains of the common bacteria *Staphylococcus*.

"Whether you're stationed in a submarine, or eating in a restaurant, it doesn't really matter," Rogelj points out. "Regardless of where they are encountered, these types of microorganisms are a real threat."

Kieft and Rogelj are using a two-pronged approach to finding methods which can be employed in such a small system: Kieft, a microbiologist, is adapting established biological procedures, such as the polymerase chain reaction (PCR) to detect and identify the DNA sequences specific to pathogens; while Rogelj, a cell biologist and immunologist, is combining PCR with antibody-based detection methods in a new technique call



Snezna Rogelj

"We're not looking at the genes, but at the products these genes encode," she says. "And the real beauty of it is that we don't have to find the whole organism, we just have to find parts of it."

Researchers at Yale University Medical School are working concurrently on developing strategies that will allow the pathogen detection device to differentiate between microorganisms that are pathogenic and those that are not.

Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, meanwhile, is tasked with miniaturizing these emerging bio-technologies

through nanotechnology and packaging them into a detection system which will be smaller than an average briefcase.

A working prototype of the instrument already has been developed at the national lab, but is of limited use because it currently targets only a few pathogens.

The next phase of the Pathogen Detection Program will concentrate on enhancing the sensitivity of the pathogen detection system, increasing the number of pathogens it is capable of detecting, and improving the differentiation of specific toxins which are characteristic of each pathogen, thus allowing researchers, and ultimately, the end users of the detector, to positively identify what microorganism they may be dealing with.

The Pathogen Detection Program is a coordinated effort to attack a very timely problem, says Kieft, the principal investigator of the research project, and by employing these novel approaches, several practical applications may be found for many different pathogens.

"This research project has taken on a whole different focus since September 11," Rogelj adds. "Now it's not only the soldier in a closed environment that we're concerned about, but also the innocent child who might become exposed to these pathogens. . . . For those of us working on this project, the entire picture has changed."

**Tech Notes  
N.M. Tech Receives  
National Designation as  
Center of Excellence**

New Mexico Tech has been designated by the National Security Agency (NSA) as a Center of Academic Excellence in Information Assurance Education for academic years 2002 through 2005, joining an elite list of only 36 universities across the country that have ever been awarded this distinction.

"Our being named to this select group — which includes other distinguished universities such as Carnegie-Mellon, Georgia Tech, Purdue, and Stanford — highlights New Mexico Tech's commitment to education and research in the field of information assurance and information systems security and speaks highly of our university's Information Technology (IT) degree program and related Institute for Complex Additive Systems Analysis (ICASA)," New Mexico Tech President Daniel H. López said.

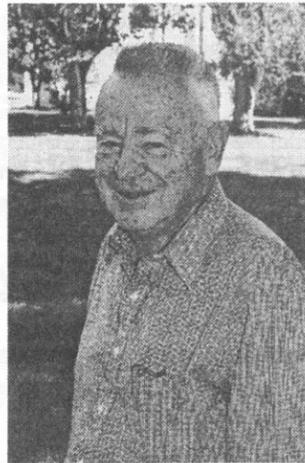
"In addition, this new designation will assist us in seeking additional federal funding for scholarships and research grants in this critically important area of information assurance," López added.

The NSA's Centers of Academic Excellence in Information Assurance Education Program is intended to reduce vulnerabilities in the national information infrastructure by promoting higher education in information assurance and producing a growing number of professionals with information assurance expertise in various disciplines.

In addition to the NSA designation, New Mexico Tech's IT curriculum also was recently certified as compliant for information assurance professionals in federal departments and agencies by the National Security Telecommunications and Information Systems Security Instruction's National Training Standard for INFOSEC Professionals.

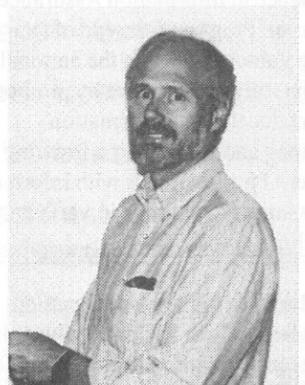
**Lightning Researchers  
Receive Safety  
Recognition Award**

Longtime New Mexico Tech lightning researchers Charles B. Moore and William Rison were named winners of the National Lightning Safety Institute's (NLSI) annual lightning safety recognition award in the category of U.S. academia. The NLSI awards honor individuals and organizations who best exemplify a professional



Charles B. Moore

understanding of lightning safety issues and who provide leadership as role models for others involved in lightning safety.



William Rison

The NLSI award citation states that Moore and Rison were chosen as this year's recipients "... for their defense of the scientific approach that supposed improvements in lightning protection must be verifiable through the independent third-party peer-reviewed process with supportable technical evidence."

### Geophysics Prof. Named Chair of IRIS Committee

Richard C. Aster, professor of geophysics and research geophysicist at New Mexico Tech, recently was appointed chairman of the Incorporated Research Institutions for Seismology (IRIS)

Education & Outreach Standing Committee, one of four standing committees within the IRIS consortium that oversee the organization's core programs.

The IRIS Education & Outreach program is charged with developing and implementing IRIS programs designed to enhance seismology and Earth science education in K-12 schools, colleges and universities, and with the general public.

IRIS is a research consortium of about 90 universities and other institutions involved in exploring the Earth's interior through the collection and distribution of seismographic data.

### VP Van Romero Named Chairman of Domestic Preparedness Consortium

Van D. Romero (79, BS, physics), vice president for research and economic development at New Mexico Tech, recently was appointed national chairman of the National Domestic Preparedness Consortium (NDPC), a partnership of public and private organizations committed to serving emergency first-responders by training them to respond efficiently and safely to incidents involving weapons of mass destruction.

Through its First Responders Training Program, New Mexico Tech currently teaches first responders, such as fire fighters and law enforcement personnel, how to effectively handle and investigate emergency situations involving explosions or potential acts of terrorism, including biological, chemical, and nuclear threats.

### Kelly Building Re-Dedicated

New Mexico Tech's Kelly Petroleum Building, which houses the university's Petroleum Recovery Research Center



Kelly Petroleum Building re-dedication

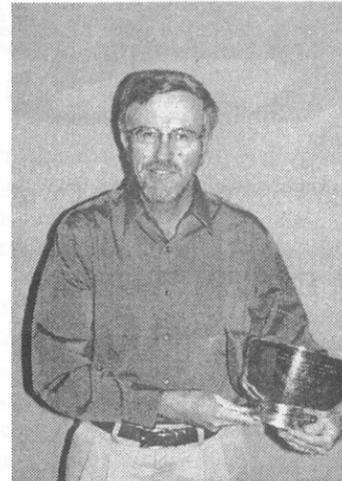
(PRRC), was officially renamed from the "John M. Kelly Building" to the "John M. & Esther L. Kelly Building."

New Mexico Tech administrators chose to memorialize the late Roswell couple, in large part, because of their long history of support and service to Tech and also to New Mexico's oil and gas industry.

Several Kelly family members, campus officials, political leaders, and other dignitaries attended the Nov. 7 rededication ceremony, including New Mexico Tech graduate and former Tech Regent Dr. J. Michael Kelly (72, BS; 97, MS; 00, Ph.D., all in petroleum engr.), Tech President Daniel H. López, PRRC director Robert Lee, and State Senator Tim Jennings of Roswell.

### Fred Phillips Garners Meinzer Award

Fred M. Phillips, professor of hydrology at New Mexico Tech, was named this year's recipient of the O. E. Meinzer Award at the recently held Geological Society of America (GSA) annual convention in Boston, marking the fourth time a New Mexico Tech hydrology professor has received the prestigious prize. The Meinzer Award is the highest honor in the field of hydrogeology in the nation. Phillips was recognized for five pioneering papers which focused on the use of



Fred Phillips

isotopic tracers in hydrology, especially the development and application of chlorine-36 isotopic techniques to arid region hydrology and to determining the flow rates of ground water in aquifers. Techniques he developed have proved important in the evaluation of both high-level and low-level proposed nuclear waste disposal sites.

### John Wilson Named Chair of New Consortium

John L. Wilson, professor of hydrology at New Mexico Tech and chairman of the university's Earth and Environmental Science Department, recently was elected chairman of the Board of Directors of the Consortium of Universities for the Advancement of Hydrologic Science, Inc. (CUAHSI).

CUAHSI, which consists of 43 universities, was established to facilitate advancements in the hydrologic sciences by providing university researchers access to the most appropriate data, instruments, and technologies; creating hydrologic understanding to address pressing national and international problems; nurturing public perception of hydrologic sciences through programs of education and outreach; and assuring applicability of advances through a program of technology transfer.

### Prof. Rick Aster in National Geographic

In the December 2001 issue of *National Geographic*, Dr. Rick Aster, Earth and Environmental Science, is quoted in the lead article on Antarctica. *National Geographic* is one of the most widely disseminated periodicals in the world, with an English language circulation of approximately 8.6 million.

The copyrighted article begins, "Nearing the crater rim, Rick Aster paused for a warning: 'Don't try to run if it erupts. Just stand still, look up, and be ready to step aside if anything comes your way. This thing can throw lava bombs the size of a sofa.'"

Aster issued this warning at the summit of Mount Erebus, a massive volcano thrusting nearly two and a half miles above the Ross Sea off the coast of East Antarctica."

### Tech Geochem Prof. Publishes Textbook

Mantle plumes, mushroom-shaped regions of hot rock that rise up from deep below the Earth's crust, have taken a "back seat" to plate tectonics ever since both geologic processes were introduced to and accepted by the Earth science community in the late-1960s and early 1970s.

But now, because of recent advances in computer modeling and seismic tomography, combined with new data garnered from the preliminary explorations of Mars and Venus, scientific interest in mantle plumes "has increased exponentially," writes a noted geochemistry professor at New Mexico Tech.

In his newly published book, *Mantle Plumes and Their Record in Earth History*, New Mexico Tech's Kent C. Condie, examines the role of mantle plumes throughout the geologic record and describes the newest, exciting results of cutting-edge research on

mantle plumes conducted by geologists, geophysicists, and geochemists at various locations around the world.

### Thank You from the Tech Admission Office

by Angela Sobien and Allison Costello

Every year, New Mexico Tech's Admission Office is invited to hundreds of college fairs across the country. Our goal is to attend as many fairs as possible, to inform students about the benefits of a Tech education and to make Tech the top choice for some of our nation's best students.

The New Mexico Tech Admission Office is very grateful for all the help and support we have received from our alumni. We would like to extend our thanks to all those who have helped within the past year and in previous years. The help and support of these individuals has helped us to attend the vast majority of college fairs we are invited to and has helped to spread the word about New Mexico Tech.

John Abbot (95)  
Jesse Christolm (82)  
James Church (60)  
Glen Cook (87)  
Clint Crowley (92)  
Ruben Diaz (81)  
Andy Dysart (82)  
Shari Foley (91)  
Bob Gray (69)  
Frank Greiner (75)  
Christopher Harder (86)  
Roberta Henson (96)  
Dawn Hipsh (94)  
Erica Janes (01)  
James Kierstead (79)  
William Marble (73)  
Brian McGurk (86)  
Jessica McElhiney (98)  
Debra Miller (92)  
Peter Osofsky (86)  
W. David Rust (69)  
Eleni Sims (91)  
Bob Walker (74)

If you would like to assist the Admission Office in our recruitment efforts by participating in college fairs in your area, please contact Angela Sobien at [asobien@admin.nmt.edu](mailto:asobien@admin.nmt.edu). See page 6 for details on volunteering.

# STARS

NEW MEXICO TECH'S ALUMNI VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

## YES, I VOLUNTEER TO BE A "WINNER IN THE WORLD" FOR NEW MEXICO TECH. I CAN ...

- Refer students who I think will value a Tech education.
- Drop off materials at area high schools or community colleges.
- Attend a hotel reception.
- Assist an Admission Professional at college fairs.
- Represent New Mexico Tech at College Day/Night Programs

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

HOME ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

HOME NO. ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ CLOSEST METROPOLITAN CITY \_\_\_\_\_

NAME OF COMPANY \_\_\_\_\_

COMPANY ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

WORK NO. ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ MAY WE CALL YOU AT WORK? \_\_\_\_\_

WHERE SHOULD WE SHIP MATERIALS? HOME \_\_\_\_\_ WORK \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

FAX NUMBER ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ WORK? \_\_\_\_\_ HOME? \_\_\_\_\_

COMMENTS OR SUGGESTIONS? \_\_\_\_\_

## NO, I CAN'T VOLUNTEER THIS YEAR, BUT KEEP ME ON YOUR MAILING LIST.

Please send this form to: Angela Sobien, Admission Office, New Mexico Tech, 801 Leroy Place, Socorro, N.M. 87801.

## People You Know

### 1950s

**Dr. Alan H. Cheetham** (50, BS, geology), now a senior scientist emeritus at the Smithsonian Institution, was honored twice this year for his research in paleontology. At the annual meeting of the Geological Society of America in Boston in November, he was given the Paleontological Society Medal, the Paleontological Society's most prestigious award. In June, the University of Chicago Press book, *Evolutionary Patterns: Growth, Form, and Tempo in the Fossil Record* (J. B. C. Jackson, S. Lidgard, and F. K. McKinney, editors) was published in his honor. According to a review in *Science* magazine, *Evolutionary Patterns* is a *festschrift* in honor of Alan Cheetham, a distinguished paleontologist who has provided breakthrough insights on patterns of colony formation in bryozoans, documented that careful morphometrics can reveal true genetic species in bryozoa, and demonstrated that speciation patterns in fossil bryozoa fit the model of punctuated equilibrium' (R. Bambach, *Science*, 2 November 2001).

**Donald H. Richter** (50, BS, geology) writes, "We have a second home (vacation retreat) at the edge of the Gila Wilderness, where in the late 1940s a bunch of us students often went to collect cassiterite and wood tin mineral samples." Don and his wife live in Anchorage.

### 1960s

**Fritz Wolff** (60, BS, mining engr.) writes, "I tried to retire a few years ago, but found it to be awfully tough work. Washington State's Department of Natural Resources took pity on me and I am currently working on their Abandoned Mine Lands (AML) Program in conjunction with the Forest Service." Fritz lives in Olympia, Wash.

### 1970s

**Michael (Mike) W. Dory** (76, BS, geology) writes, "I have been employed since 1976 with BJ Services, an oilfield services company specializing in acidizing, fracturing, cementing and coiled tubing services, worldwide. I am the district manager of Coiled Tubing Services over the Pacific area (California and Alaska). In addition to my Tech degree, I also received a Masters' in Business Administration from Colorado State University in May 2000.

"I am in the process of relocating myself and my family to Bakersfield, Calif., which is the twelfth location I have worked in (others were Texas, New Mexico, Pennsylvania, and Nagykanizsa, Hungary).

"My family consists of my wife, Catherine, and children, Kristen, 16, and Megan, 12. Catherine is currently a student at Kilgore Junior College in Texas, studying photography and computer graphics. She graduates in May 2002 with an associate's degree. She works as a photographer in her spare time."

**Carl Axness** (75, BS, math; 77, MS, math; 84, MS, hydrology) received his Ph.D. in civil engineering in June 2000 from the Technical University of Catalonia (Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya), under advisor Jesus Carrera. He also received a five-year Ramon & Cajal grant to do research at the Technical University of Valencia in Valencia, Spain, in hydrology.

**Mitch Bilderbeck** (77, BS, petroleum engr.) and **Nancy Bilderbeck** (76, BS, biology) continue to reside in London, England. Mitch now works as an energy consultant for Gaffney, Cline and Associates. He spends much of his time in India, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait (to name a few). Nancy has recently resigned as the vice principal of a primary school and is now a specialist science teacher.

Their daughter, Amy, 19, is at Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island. She is also studying at Oxford in England. Their son, Ray, 17, is finishing his Advanced Level studies at Westminster School, London.

Each spring they travel to New Mexico for a brief visit. Socorro is always on the agenda, as no trip to the Southwest would be complete without putting at least two golf balls into the pond on the 5th hole of the Tech Golf Course.

**Dr. Johnny L. Golden** (77, BS, chemistry) is an expert in spacecraft materials, working for Space and Communications, Inc., in Houston. After graduation from Tech, Johnny earned his master's in chemical engineering at the University of New Mexico and his Ph.D. in the same subject at Montana State University. He is an expert on the properties of spacecraft materials and their applications in spaceflight hardware. He has worked for Boeing, where he has been Materials and Processes lead for the International Space Station. He has earned several awards for his work: the NASA "Silver Snoopy" award in 1999 for professional excellence and safety; the Boeing Superior Quality Performance Award for solving an antenna bearing problem in 1998; and the NASA Spaceflight Awareness Award for significant safety contributions, 1995.

**Estevan Lopez** (79, BS, petroleum engr.; 79, BS, chemical engr.) has been appointed county manager for Santa Fe County. He is also the county's land-use administrator.

### 1980s

**Bruce W. Baker** (81, MS, geology) and his wife Beth have moved to Howell, Mich. Bruce is a principal at Harding ESE, an environmental consulting firm, and Beth, who used to teach reading at Alamo Navajo Reservation, now teaches in Howell.

**Dr. Philip Carpenter** (81, MS, geophysics; 84, Ph.D., geoscience) has been promoted to full professor at the Dept. of Geology and Environmental Geosciences at Northern Illinois University. He continues to conduct research in environmental geophysics. In September he traveled to southern China to work on a groundwater remediation project in rural Guangdong Province.

Philip and Madaline Carpenter adopted their second daughter from China in March, 2001. Her English name is Celia Anne and she was adopted in Changsha, Hunan Province, China. She joins her sister, Lydia Rose, who was adopted in China in 1998. In June, Philip and Madaline had a baby boy, whom they named Robert Philip Meier Carpenter. The two new children have brought some major changes to the Carpenter household! They live in DeKalb, Ill., about 50 miles west of Chicago.

**Ellsworth Kevin Rolfs** (81, BS, CS) writes, "I have been involved for the past four years in upgrading the (Department of Defense) DFAS (Defense Finance Accounting Service) snail mail accounting and commerce methods to state-of-art Electronic Commerce/ Electronic Data Interchange (EC/EDI) techniques.

"My wife Elizabeth and I have two daughters, adopted from Romania. They are Adriana, 13, and Cammie, 12. We got them when they were 1 and 2."

**Timothy A. Hanson** (82, BS, geological engr.; 90, MS, mining engr.) is a CEO of Compusolve USA, Inc. He lives in Lakewood, Wash.

**Charles LaCerra** (82, BS, physics) writes, "After graduating and spending a year in Albuquerque, where my oldest son was born, I moved back to New Jersey. I spent four years in the Air Force as a weather officer. After that, I became an environmental consultant, working for 11 years with a company that provided technical support to the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency. I now work as a project manager at an

analytical laboratory. I have two fine sons, one in college and one in high school."

**Joseph A. Sawyer** (82, BS, mining engr.) writes, "I've been working for SRK Consulting for two years now, based out of Reno, Nev. My wife Carmen and I still have two boys and three girls at home. Our oldest son lives and works in Las Vegas, Nev. I'm proud to be a Techie!"

**Jerry Schilling** (82, BS, petroleum engr.) recently celebrated 20 years with Unocal Corp. In January 2002, he was part of a team to receive the Chairman's Award, his company's highest honor for successes in the offshore oil and gas business. He is an active rock climber and backpacker. This year, he ran his first marathon in Houston. He and his family have been relocated from Lafayette to Sugar Land, Texas.

*Is your "People You Know" item not in this issue?*

*If you submitted it after March 31, it will appear in the next issue.*

**Mark Shellhorn** (82, MS, geology) writes, "During 2001, I sold my ownership in the consulting firm Basin and Range Hydrogeologists and moved to Bay City, Mich., where I am semi-retired. I offer limited consulting services for select clients and am involved in

financing real estate ventures. My wife, Shelly, and I have a five-year-old son, Weston."

**John H. Dooley** (83, MS, geology) writes, "I'm into my fourteenth year at the New Jersey Geological Survey. Last year I was promoted from principal geochemist to research scientist. My work focuses on the environmental chemistry of metals and radionuclides. A new interest of mine is the role geomicrobiology has in the development of glauconite and other authigenic aluminosilicates. My wife, Brenda, and I have a wonderful 2.5 year old son who loves to pick up rocks, already following in the old man's footsteps!"

**Carolyn Sims** (83, BS, computer science and math) writes, "Massive layoffs here in Silicon Valley have meant hard times for many. Happily, I am now working as a senior technical project manager at eBay. It's an amazing place! The software lifecycle is very, very fast!"

**Mary Torres** (83, BGS) was elected president of the State Bar of New Mexico for the year beginning January 2002. She is the first Hispanic woman to head the organization. Mary, whose father, Eugene, owned Gambles True Value Hardware Store in Socorro, was a teacher for six years in Socorro. She was encouraged to go into law by Socorro District Court Judge Neil Mertz, when she showed an interest during mock trials staged with her class. She earned her law degree from the University of New Mexico in 1996 and has been with Modrall Sperling law firm since January 1996.

**Richard G. Guzowski** (84, MST) retired after teaching for 36 years with the Springfield, Mass., public schools. He was chairman of a 20-member science department and taught biology and ecology. Richard lives in Florence, Mass.

**Eli Whitney Blake** (85, BS, chemistry; 85, BS, math; 86, MS math) writes, "I am

employed teaching mathematics at Northland Pioneer College in Holbrook, Ariz. I live in Joseph City, Ariz., with my wife **Tressa (Dennis)** (a Tech student in 1983-84, who also worked with Tech security as a dispatcher then), and three daughters, Valorie, Leah, and Maranda. I taught for eight years at Albuquerque TVI (where I served as the secretary of the Faculty Senate and was active in the successful formation of a union). Then after a year in Texas, I began at NPC, where I am now in my fourth year. I love my job. In addition to my teaching duties, I am the secretary of the Faculty Association (having served as treasurer last year). I have also become involved recently with healthcare issues, particularly as they relate to small rural communities.

**Murat Bengisu** (87, MS, metallurgical engr.) is the author of a recently published book, *Engineering Ceramics*, published by Springer-Verlag Publishing, Inc. Bengisu is a faculty member at Eastern Mediterranean University in Gazi Magusa, Cyprus.

**Grant Denn** (87, BS, physics) writes, "After graduating with a Ph.D. in physics from the University of Iowa in 1999, I've worked in temporary faculty positions at Georgia Southern University and the University of Wyoming. My latest position is as a research and teaching fellow at Sweet Briar College in Virginia, where I teach physics and astronomy, and try to get some radio astronomy projects finished. I enjoy teaching and am still playing music (NMT Jazz Band was a lot of fun!)"

**Rama (Krishnamurty) Gehris** (87, BS, math.; 90, MS, math) writes that she and **Allen Gehris** (87, BS, materials engr.; 90, MS, materials engr.) "are still living in southern Maryland, near Washington, D.C. Allen still works as a civilian for the United States Navy, but now for the Naval Science and Technology Office at Naval Air Station, Patuxent River, Md. His official title is 'technology manager,' which means he gives a lot of briefs and makes a lot of view graphs and travels a lot.

"After working writing software (what else do mathematicians these days do anyway?) for E2C airplane and reading software documentation for A-H I helicopter (Huey/Cobra) I resigned from my fabulous career to 'stay home' with our three children: Miranda, 9, Brandon, 7, and Cecilia, 3. This means I spend my time shuttling the kids to sports and activities, and volunteering for all sorts of stuff. I am also busy creating my own line of polymer clay jewelry. As always, we welcome phone calls and/or e-mail from everyone at (301) 373-2667 or [gehris@erols.com](mailto:gehris@erols.com)."

**Susan Lanphere** (88, BS, materials engr.) writes, "I spent the first seven years after graduation in Illinois working metallurgy/failure analysis; then moved to Oregon where I spent five years, mostly working as process engineer for injection molding and printing of compact discs. Then I opted to move "back home" to Seattle working for a start-up medical device supplier - portable ultrasound - as supplier quality engineer. I have improved my golf game since learning it at Tech, playing many courses where I've lived and traveled - the highlight being St. Andrew's Old Course. But I still miss the green chili cheeseburgers from the Owl Bar and Grill!"

**Peter Vigil** (89, BS, physics [electronics]) writes, "In 1999 I was hired as executive director for the Taos Soil and Water Conservation District. The district provides technical and financial assistance to local landowners with regard to natural resource conservation issues and projects. My wife, Jeanette, and I have four children and live in Taos."

## 1990s

**Capt. Edward J. Efsic III** (90, BS, physics) writes, "After graduating from Tech, I entered the Air Force and was selected for officer training. After graduating from Officer Training School in San Antonio, Texas, I married former Socorroan Barbara Drake in 1992. We were first stationed at Mather Air Force

Base in California, where I went to navigator school. Then we moved to Tinker Air Force Base in Midwest City, Okla., where I flew AWACS.

"I traveled extensively all over the world, and after four years, I decided to train for another aircraft. In 1997, we moved to Little Rock Air Force Base in Jacksonville, Ark., where I started training for C-130. We plan to move again in Sept. 2002, hopefully to Tucson, Ariz., so we can get back to the Southwest. I will be up for promotion to major this year.

"We have two grown children, my stepchildren. Joni, 24, married in 2000 and lives in Oklahoma City with her husband, Doug. My son, Stuart, 20, lives with us. Barbara and I will also celebrate our tenth anniversary in June 2002. We visit Socorro often, as we have many friends there and Barbara has a lot of family there. Friends, please feel free to contact me at [eddieefsic@msn.com](mailto:eddieefsic@msn.com)."

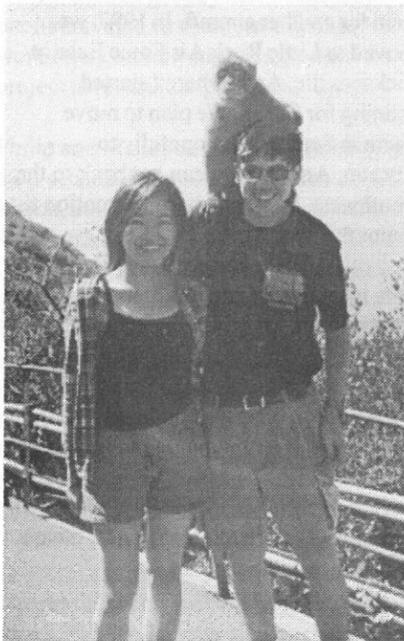
**Andrew M. Montañño** (94, BGS) recently started his first semester at the Colorado School of Mines in pursuit of a master's degree in the Environmental Science and Engineering Department with an emphasis in biotechnology. Andrew continues to remain employed with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation in Denver, Colo., as an aquatic biologist. He can be reached at [amontano@yahoo.com](mailto:amontano@yahoo.com).

**Tim Gorham** (95, BS, petr. engr.; 97, MS, petr. engr.) was recently assigned as petroleum engineer, Cymric Light Oil Technical Team, Chevron-Texaco, Bakersfield. Tim was married to the former Heather Walker in April, and resides in Bakersfield, Calif.

**Chris Zimmer** (95, BS, geological engr.) writes, "I have worked for six years in the mining industry. All six years have been underground. For the first four years, I was a mining engineer, and for the past two years, I have been shift boss. I work for the Stillwater Mining Company and live in Roscoe, Mont., with my wife, Robin, and our three

children: Mersades, 3, Theodore, 2, and Gavin, born Nov. 11, 2001."

**Carl B. Kroll** (96, BS, math), writes, "After graduating, I was fortunate enough to work for Hughes Aircraft in



Vicky Yang, Carl Kroll, and a friend

Hong Kong with Dan Wilson (96, BS electrical engr.) on a contract for the new airport at Chek Lap Kok for 2.5 years, during the territory's handover back to China. After spending a brief time in Fullerton, Calif., I continued my international career by working for Raytheon Air Command and Control System, which had a contract for the Portuguese Air Force. I have enjoyed imbibing Portuguese wine in port wine's native land ever since."

**Brandon Pemble** (96, BS, engineering mechanics) and his wife **Rosa Armijo-Pemble** (97, BS, technical communication) announce the arrival of their son, Korbyn Royal Pemble, born March 3. Brandon is the manager of Engineering Services at Goodrich Aerospace. Rosa was working in marketing but has decided to stay home and enjoy being a mom.

**Theresa Espindola** (97, BS, biology) writes, "I was recently a co-author on a paper that appeared in the *American Journal of Physiology - Lung Cellular and Molecular Physiology*. The paper is titled "CCSP modulates airway dysfunction and host responses in an Ova-challenged mouse model". Theresa is a research technologist at Lovelace Respiratory Research Institute. Theresa's husband **Ricardo Espindola** (96, BS, physics) is a project manager at Arctic Slope Regional Corporation Communications. They live in Cedar Crest, N.M.

**Carolyn (Davidson) Henry** (97, BS, physics) was married to Robert Henry on October 6, 2001 in Arlington, Virginia. Carolyn writes, "We currently are living in Alexandria, Virginia, just outside Washington D.C., but are thinking about relocating to the Philadelphia area in the next few months." Carolyn is a senior systems analyst and system administrator for Signal Corp. in Ft. Belvoir, Va.

**Jennifer Knowlton** (97, BS, environmental engr.; 99, MS, environmental engr.) and **Brad Knowlton** (95) are the proud parents of Wesley Glenn, born on November 3, 2001, and weighing in at 9 pounds, 4 ounces. Jennifer says, "He is a happy baby - always smiling and laughing. He is a joy to be around." The Knowltons live in Los Lunas, and Jennifer is a senior staff engineer at Harding ESE in Albuquerque.

**April B. Cooley** (98, BS, environmental engr.) moved to a new job in 2001 with FM Global working as a fire protection and loss prevention engineer. She lives in Manhattan Beach, Calif.

**Marc Ahlen** (99, BS, engineering mechanics) has left Newport News Shipbuilding in Hampton, Va., to join Independent Mobility Systems in Aztec, N.M., as a staff mechanical engineer.

2000s

**Wadhah Al-Tailji** (00, BS, petr. engr.) writes, "I married Cheryl Dixon on May 12, 2001, with **Jason Marino** (00, BS, computer science; 00, BS, management) serving as my best man! I am now working for the California Department of Transportation in Oakland, California, and have learned the true meaning of the beast that is called the "Bay Area Commute" (I guess that's a motivator for where I work!). My e-mail address is still [altailji@nmt.edu](mailto:altailji@nmt.edu).

**Marc Cooley** (01, BS, electrical engineering) is working for the United States Patent and Trademark Office in Washington, D.C. He lives in Arlington, Va.

Giving Tip

Cash gifts to New Mexico Tech can be made at a reduced cost. Since Colonial times, U.S. tax laws have recognized the "public good" benefits of charitable gifts with a variety of tax considerations. Currently, income tax deductions can be taken up to 50% of adjusted gross income. Therefore, the net cost of a \$10,000 cash gift is \$7,200, assuming you save \$2,800 because you are in a 28% tax bracket. You may save even more if you are a New Mexico resident.

Reminder: This general information is provided to aid and inform you, and you should consult your own financial advisor about charitable giving.

Obituaries

Dec. 2001 to March 2002

[Note: in cases where donations may be made to New Mexico Tech, the address is: Advancement Office, New Mexico Tech, 801 Leroy Place, Socorro, NM 87801.]

**Dr. George Atwood III**, an alumnus, recipient of numerous awards from New Mexico Tech, and longtime supporter of the Institute, passed away peacefully at home on Jan. 8, 2002. The youngest of eight children, he was born in Savannah, Ga., on July 21, 1918, to Mary Jane McIntosh Atwood and Jules Epping Atwood. He grew up with a love for the beautiful Georgia coast, but his interest in rocks and minerals drew him west at the age of 17 to the New Mexico School of Mines, where he earned a bachelor's degree in metallurgical engineering in 1939 and a master's degree in the same field in 1945. He completed the advanced management program at Harvard Business School in 1965, and was awarded an honorary doctorate in engineering by New Mexico Tech in 1968.

George began his career in 1939, working in the potash industry in Carlsbad, N.M. In 1950, he joined Duval Corporation, where he served as chief engineer in the design and construction of the Duval Potash Mining and Refining Plant. In 1957, he and his family relocated to Tucson, Ariz. He was named resident manager of Duval Corp. in 1972 and served as chairman of the board and chief executive officer until his retirement in 1983. He also was a director of Duval's parent company, Pennzoil Corp., for that same period.

A brilliant and creative scientist, George held 12 United States patents and authored numerous publications in the fields of extractive metallurgy and soluble chemistry. A prime achievement was his leadership in developing Duval's CLEAR process, a commercial hydrometallurgical refining process that generates no atmospheric pollution. George played a significant role in the

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development of several North American ore bodies, including the Sierrita Copper and Molybdenum Complex near Tucson, the Cory Potash operation in Saskatchewan, Canada, and the Battle Mountain Gold Mine in Nevada. He also served as a consultant in the development of the Dead Sea Potash Works in Israel, where a portion of the plant is known today as the Atwood Circuit.

George received the Legion of Honor Award in 1994 by the Society for Mining, Metallurgy, and Exploration. He received the Distinguished Achievement Award from New Mexico Tech that same year. In 1993, he was given the Distinguished Service Award by the American Mining Congress. George was the first inductee to the Southwest Mining Hall of Fame in 1983, and that same year received the Ankh Award from the New York City Copper Club as Copper Man of the Year. In 1980, he received the James Douglas medal for distinguished achievement in nonferrous metallurgy from the American Institute for Mining, Metallurgical, and Petroleum Engineers. He received the Distinguished Citizen Award from the University of Arizona Alumni Association in 1971.

George was devoted to his family and found great joy in large family gatherings. He met Judy Ann Brown in Socorro, and they married in 1938. They made their home in Carlsbad until Judy's untimely death in 1953. George married Mildred Wright Kayser in 1954, embarking on a marriage that was to last almost 40 years. Mildred died in 1993 in Tucson. In 1994, George married Margery P. Greene, of Darien, Ga., whom he had known since childhood. Margery died in 1997. George is survived by five children, seven surviving grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Gifts in the memory of George Atwood may be made to the Student Scholarship Fund of New Mexico Tech, 801 Leroy Place, Socorro 87801.

**Cristopher Wade Carson**, age 26, died of cancer on Dec. 18, 2001. He was the son of Charlie Carson, Jr. and the late Carolyn Warder Carson. He is survived by one sister, Cyndi Ann Carson, one half-sister, Cassandra Carson, step-mother Cynthia Barcht Carson; and grandparents, aunts, and uncles. He also leaves behind Jessica Trujillo of Santa Fe. He is preceded in death by one sister, Crista Lunn Carson, in 1994. Cris spent six years in Stuttgart, Germany, returning to Albuquerque to graduate from Manzano High School, where he was a member of the track team. He graduated from New Mexico Tech in 1999 with a bachelor's degree in environmental engineering. He worked in that field at Los Alamos National Laboratory. Should friends desire, memorial contributions may be made to The Hospice Memorial Foundation, 4725 Indian School Rd., NE, Albuquerque, N.M., 87110.

Chris's professor, Dr. Clint Richardson, recalled, "Chris Carson was a good all-around student to have in our program. He was a member of my 1999 winning WERC design contest team. I worked closely with him on modeling our process for the contest. I am saddened to hear about his death."

**Frederick W. Foell**, age 89, passed away on Nov. 14, 2001, in Lubbock, Texas. Foell was born on June 11, 1912, in the village of Northeast, Penn. He graduated from Westfield Academy, a high school in Westfield, N. Y., in 1930, and graduated from New Mexico School of Mines in 1935.

Following his graduation from college, he joined Stanolind Oil and Gas Company, now B.P. Amoco, as a petroleum engineer working in Hobbs, N.M. He worked for the company at various locations in New Mexico, Texas, and Wyoming, retiring from the office in Salt Creek, Wyo.

He married Berniece Douglas on Oct. 4, 1947, in Abernathy, Texas. They moved from Casper, Wyo., to Lubbock in 1972. He attended First Baptist Church.

He is survived by his wife and by two daughters, Sherron Hadlock of Cottonwood, Ariz., and Carolyn Hack of Lubbock. He is also survived by a sister, Virginia Lillie, of Westfield, New York, and three grandchildren.

**Dr. George B. Griswold**, aged 73, alumnus and professor emeritus at New Mexico Tech, passed away on March 26, 2002, in Las Cruces.

Griswold was born on Dec. 9, 1928, in Ponca City, Okla., to Edward H. and Naomi Jane Bullard Griswold. His father was a petroleum engineer, and the family moved to New York and then Texas, where Griswold received his early education. Griswold served in the U.S. Army from 1951 to 1953, starting as platoon leader and moving up to the battalion staff.



Photo of George Griswold, courtesy of Carol Griswold

Griswold attended the New Mexico School of Mines, earning his bachelor's degree in mining engineering in 1955, with the school's highest honor, the Brown Medal. He then went on to the University of Arizona, where he received his master's degree in 1957. In 1967, he earned his Ph.D. in geological engineering at the same institution, the first Ph.D. the university granted in that field.

Griswold worked in a variety of mining camps during his early career: Tepehuanes, Mexico; Fairbanks, Ala.; Leadville, Colo.; Superior and San Manuel, Ariz.; and Bishop, Calif. In 1957, he joined the New Mexico Bureau of Mines and Mineral Resources as an associate mining engineer. After receiving his doctorate, he became a faculty member, serving as Mining Department Chairman until 1970 when he returned to industry. He first consulted for Minera Azteca in Mexico, then joined Getty Oil Co. in Los Angeles. The company soon transferred him to Canada as vice president and manager of Mineral Exploration for western Canada and Alaska. Getty terminated Canadian mineral exploration in 1974.

Griswold returned to New Mexico and joined Sandia National Laboratories. He pursued energy research in coal and oil shale. He was then assigned to work under Dr. Wendell Weart, participating in the site selection for the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant near Carlsbad. He left Sandia in 1978 to form his own consulting firm known as the Tecolote Corp. He and his associates conducted studies for Sandia, DOE, the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, and numerous mining companies.

He completed his professional career by returning to New Mexico Tech in 1984. He served as Chairman of the Mining, Geological, and Environmental Engineering Department until his retirement in 1988. He was both a Distinguished and Legion of Honor Member of the Society of Mining Engineers.

His loving wife, Carol Ann Griswold, survives him. He has seven children: Cynthia, Pat, Jim and Robert from his first marriage and Pete, Matt, and Kady, whom he "inherited" from his second marriage. There are nine grandchildren.

It was his directive that no memorial or similar service be held.

**Earl Conrad Herkenhoff**, a 1936 alumnus of the New Mexico School of Mines and the last surviving son of Lillian Herkenhoff, longtime house mother for School of Mines students, passed away on Thursday, March 14, 2002, at ManorCare Health Services, Reno, Nev. Earl was born on October 1, 1915, in Socorro, and his family lived for many years in a basement apartment in Old Driscoll Hall, a student residence on the School of Mines campus. At his request, his ashes were scattered on M Mountain.

In addition to his B.S. in mining engineering from New Mexico School of Mines, Earl held an M.S. from Idaho School of Mines. He was a registered Professional Engineer and a distinguished member of the American Institute of Mining, Metallurgical and Petroleum Engineers. He received the Distinguished Alumnus Award from New Mexico Tech in 1990, held 15 patents and wrote numerous professional papers.

Earl was preceded in death by his wife, Rose, his brothers Gordon and Walter, both also School of Mines alumni, and their sister, Harriet. Earl is survived by his two daughters, Sandra Pursell and Linda Herkenhoff of Menlo Park, Calif.; and his two sons, Fred of Orinda, Calif.; and Stuart of Globe, Arizona.

*[An appreciation of Earl, written by two of his close friends, Bill Hawkes and Bill Fuchs, will be in the next issue.]*

**Bruce F. Lake** passed away on Feb. 7, 2002. He was a 1940 petroleum engineering graduate of New Mexico School of Mines and was retired from Lockheed Corp. He was predeceased by his first wife Ellen (nee von Eyser) and his second wife Irene (nee Adam). He is survived by his daughter, Ellen Kennedy, and devoted friend, Elizabeth M. Melville. He had five grandchildren and twelve great grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to

the National Parks Conservation Association, P.O. Box 97202, Washington, D.C. 20079.

**Mohamad Taghi (Jack) Razaghnia** passed away on Nov. 22, 2001, at the age of 68. Jack was a 1958 graduate of the School of Mines with a degree in geophysics. He was born in Tehran, Iran on June 7, 1933 and was living in Merano, Italy at the time of his death.

Jack's children Bahrhan, Shahram, Rebecca, and Patsy wrote of him, "Our father passed away in November after a long battle with multiple myeloma. He was a great man who touched many people. He was kind and generous. He was bright and funny. He had the great gift of being able to communicate with people from all walks of life. We miss him but have wonderful memories. Jack Razaghnia will continue to live in our hearts and souls."

**John E. 'Pat' Ryan** passed away on Feb. 26, 2001, at the Anchorage Pioneers' Home. He was a 1940 graduate of New Mexico School of Mines.

The *Anchorage Daily News* called Ryan "a quiet and decent gentleman miner of the old school," and noted that his passing closed yet another life from Alaska's golden age. Along with his many engineering achievements, he also helped fight Alaska's battle for statehood.

Ryan was the widower of Irene Ryan, New Mexico Tech's first female graduate. Irene was a pilot who flew open-cockpit airplanes in the 1930s, was a legislator in the 1950s, a commissioner in the Cabinet of former Alaska Gov. William A. Egan in the 1960s, and was honored as Alaskan of the Year in 1986. Together, Irene and Pat worked together constantly to make Alaska a better place.

Pat Ryan was born on Dec. 21, 1913, in Albany, N.Y. In 1932, he graduated from high school in California and in 1940 received a bachelor's degree in geological engineering from the New Mexico

School of Mines. In 1938, he and Irene Esther Irvine were married. In 1941, they moved to Anchorage.

While in high school, Pat built and flew a 45-foot wing span soaring glider. From 1932 to 1935, he prospected for placer gold by pack train in Mexico. While attending college, he worked as an underground miner in the Rocky Mountain states.

Upon arrival in Anchorage, he joined Bechtel Corp., constructing the coal-burning power plant at old Fort Richardson. He worked for more than 30 years in power plant operation for the U.S. Army, retiring as superintendent of the new Fort Richardson central heat and power plant. He then spent seven years mining placer gold in the Circle District.

**Glenn Allen Zaske**, age 35, passed away on Friday, Nov. 23, 2001 at his home in Socorro. He was born on August 17, 1966 to Merlin and Carrie (McAllister) Zaske in Fontana, Calif. He was baptized at the United Methodist Church in Upland, Calif.

He graduated from The Webb School in Claremont, Calif. in 1984 and from New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology in 1988. He enjoyed puzzles, games, playing the guitar, being with friends in Socorro and playing chess and boggle through the mail with his older sister. He held various jobs throughout his adult life and loved helping others and his adopted town of Socorro. He is a beloved son, brother, nephew, and friend; and he will be missed. He is survived by his father Merlin and step-mother, Eileen Plante of Upland, Calif.; sisters: Theresa Zaske of Balaton, Minn. and Julie Zaske of Everett, Wash.; and other relatives and friends who cared for him.

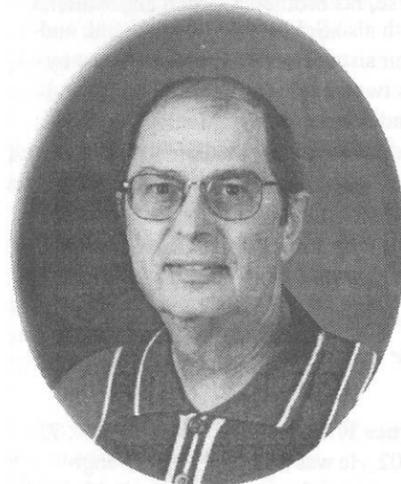
An eloquent remembrance of Glenn, written by Tech alumna Valerie Kimble (01, BS, technical communication), appeared in *El Defensor Chieftain* at <http://www.dchieftain.com/section/milestones/story/2029>

The Alumni Office received news of the passing of **Muhammed Afzal Chaudry** on Dec. 28, 2000. He resided in Magdalena. No further information was available.

We also received notice of the passing of **James Donald Clark**, a 1947 graduate in petroleum engineering. No further information was available.

### Memorial Scholarship Established in Memory of Bobby Haddock

A scholarship has been established at New Mexico Tech in the memory of Bobby Dean Haddock (81, BGS), a former Socorro resident and longtime judge in the New Mexico Science and Engineering Fair, held annually on the Tech campus. The scholarship will benefit an electrical engineering student.



Bobby Haddock grew up in Socorro and was a 1958 graduate of Socorro High School. He married Sallie Dailey (93, BGS), also of Socorro, in 1969. Both Bobby and Sallie attended New Mexico Tech and are alumni with associate's degrees. Bobby worked during his college years with Dynallectron (now DynCorp) and was transferred to Alamogordo in 1972, before he could complete a degree.

However, because he wanted to hold a degree from Tech, he later transferred credits he earned at other colleges to Tech, to qualify for a degree.

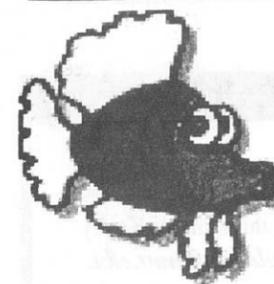
Bobby's mother, the late Pearl V. Haddock, was a pioneer in the field of education in Socorro County and the City of Socorro. She was a principal and teacher in many Socorro County Schools during the 1930s and 1940s. Pearl Haddock was known not only for bringing education to children but also for caring about the quality of children's lives, and for her kindness and generosity to those in need.

Bobby was a firm believer in the benefits of education. He volunteered to judge in Science Fair for 20 years and, as a member of the Professional Aerospace Contractors Association of New Mexico (PACA), got the organization involved in sponsoring an award given at the fair.

During Bobby's career, he was responsible for the overall management of several Air Force R&D contracts at four Air Force bases, including Kirtland.

Bobby passed away on April 10, 1999, in Albuquerque. In addition to his wife, he is survived by his son, Paul C. Haddock (95, BS, electrical engr.); and daughter, Pamela Haddock Buckley (96, BGS). Bobby is also survived by his mother-in-law Peggy Paxton Dailey of Socorro and brother-in-law, Tom Dailey (68, BS, metallurgical engr.)

The Haddock family would particularly like to thank the members of the Albuquerque Chapter of the Professional Aerospace Contractors Association for establishing this scholarship in his memory. They would also like to thank Claron and Sharon Waggoner and members of the Socorro community who knew Bobby and contributed to this scholarship.



# TechFest

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