

GOLD PAN

New Mexico Tech

Spring 2004

Duke of York visits Magdalena Ridge Observatory Site



Prince Andrew, Duke of York, meets Board of Regents president Ann Murphy Daily, while Dr. Daniel H. López looks on. See next page for more.

Royal Visit

On Oct. 20, 2003, the site of the future Magdalena Ridge Observatory (MRO) was visited by Prince Andrew, Duke of York. The prince's visit was arranged by one of New Mexico Tech's partners in the consortium, Cambridge University. The visit helped reinforce New Mexico



Tech's position as a research university of international stature.

The Duke of York gave a brief speech (above), planted a memorial tree at the site (left), and met with Tech's rugby football club (right) during his one-day visit to the New Mexico Tech campus.



He was also given a tour of EMRTC and had the chance to detonate a demonstration of a car bomb.

MRO, still in the planning and design stages, will use techniques of interferometry and adaptive optics to simulate the resolving power of a telescope 400 meters in diameter.



Hail and Farewell

The Advancement Office said a fond farewell to Steve Bobinsky (left), who has moved on to a position at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. We welcomed Denise Elvrum (right, with friend Maggie; see profile on next page), who replaces Marty Jonas Lee (01, BS, technical communication) as project coordinator. Marty, now married to Dennis Lee (03, MS, geology), is heading to Louisiana, where her husband works for Sperry Sun Drilling Services.



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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:

Dear Alumni,
Sorry it's been a while since our last *Gold Pan*. Some big changes have been going on in our office and at Tech.

We have said a fond farewell to Steve Bobinsky, who was an excellent boss for the past 3.5 years, and we have welcomed Melissa Jaramillo-Fleming, who is now assistant vice president for Student and University Relations. Melissa will oversee our office, as well as the offices of Admission and Student Affairs, which she has been heading since July 2000. We'll have a photo and profile of Melissa in the next issue.

We would also like to thank Bill Macey (42, BS, petroleum engr.) for providing funding which allows us to upgrade *Gold Pan*. Until now, there has never really been a budget specifically for printing and mailing *Gold Pan*. We are hoping to be able to bring you more color pictures in the future.

Also, we have welcomed Denise Elvrum, who replaces Marty Jonas Lee as projects coordinator.

Sincerely,
Kathy Hedges
Editor

Denise Elvrum, Project Specialist

The President of New Mexico Tech throws a dinner. A new building is dedicated. Prince Andrew drops in. Meals have to be ordered and ceremonies planned. It's all the job of the Project Coordinator, and Denise Elvrum (98, BGS) has joined the Advancement Office to handle it.

She has returned to Socorro from Minnesota to enjoy sunshine, quilting, life with puppies, and planning events for New Mexico Tech.

"My job is to plan special events — make sure that all the i's are dotted and t's are crossed, so the event comes off with professional appearance," Denise says. "My background in business helps."

Denise originally came to Socorro in 1993 with a business degree from the University of North Dakota at Grand Forks.

"I wanted something more interesting to do," she recalls. "My brother was a geologist, and I thought 'I could do that.' After a few years in the business world, I started taking geology classes in

(cont. on p. 4)

Assistant Vice President for Student and University Relations, Melissa Jaramillo-Fleming, mjaramillo@admin.nmt.edu

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- Past President: Joy Thompson (95, BGS)
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(cont. from p. 3)

North Dakota, and my professor, Doug McDonald, said 'If you're serious, you should go to New Mexico Tech.'

She was a student at Tech from 1993 to 1998, switching from geology to biology along the way and teaching some computer classes. After Tech, she accepted a job with Halliburton in Dallas, doing technical support. Her technical background plus business degree made it easy for her to talk to engineers. "I have also become a fairly good technical writer," Denise adds.

However, she didn't like the climate in Dallas. She moved back to Minnesota and found that the winters were as bad as she'd remembered; even having her family nearby couldn't take the chill off of a Minnesota winter. She decided that where she wanted to live was Socorro.

"I had friends in Socorro," explained Denise, "there's no traffic, and I wanted to have more control over my own time. I'm a quilter, and I wanted to make more time for that in my life."

She bought a house on Peña Street that used to belong to the late Rousseau Flower. [Flower is remembered fondly by many Techies as the eccentric paleontologist who was active in the SCA.] The house includes room for a quilting studio.

Denise shares her house with Maggie, a king shepherd; Jiggs, a golden retriever; and two cats, Tigger and Aussie. 

Orr Memorial Endowed Professorship Established

by George Zamora

New Mexico Tech's first ever endowed professorships have been established at the research university in memory of the late Patrick Kirpatrick Orr, a computer science professor who taught at Tech in the late 1970s and early 1980s.

The Dr. Patrick Kirpatrick Orr Memorial Endowed Professorships in Computer Science were made possible by a gift of \$500,000 from New Mexico Tech alumna Susan Packard Orr (84, MS, computer science), and her husband, Dr. Franklin M. Orr, Jr., in conjunction with the university's recently completed Commitment to Excellence capital campaign.

After having been fully funded with matching state funds, income generated from the memorial endowment will now be used to enhance salaries of New Mexico Tech faculty members named to serve as Orr Memorial Endowed Professors.

Even though they share the same last name, the benefactors of the new endowment are not related to the late New Mexico Tech computer science professor, although Susan Packard Orr was a student at Tech during the time Professor Orr was teaching at the university. She was an acquaintance of Orr's and took several

graduate-level courses from him just prior to his untimely death in early September 1981.

"Dr. Orr was totally committed to his role as a teacher," Packard Orr relates. "Not only did he make great contributions to learning in his classroom, but he was always available in his office to answer questions or discuss ideas."

Packard Orr describes Orr, who was a popular professor with many New Mexico Tech students of that era, as being "a very dynamic and energetic teacher" who often liberally seasoned his lectures with healthy dosages of humor.

"His classes were always fun, not only because of his teaching technique, but because he always gave us hard problems and challenged us to think," Packard Orr says. "His take-home exams were killers, and, to my knowledge, no one ever got a perfect score on them. He loved to put in impossible questions on his exams, and, in testament to his teaching skills, the students loved to try to solve them."

Packard Orr calls to mind that there were often friendly competitions waged among Orr's students to see who might finally be able to attain that 100 percent mark on those infamous exams.

"At one point, I managed to solve one those tough problems he often threw in, and he was as excited about that as I was," Packard Orr recalls. "But, I still didn't get that perfect score since I missed one of the easier prob-

lems. . . . It's amazing that to this day I still remember both problems."

"Patrick Orr was a very bright, very energetic young faculty member, who was very popular with the students," relates Tom Nartker, a fellow computer science professor at New Mexico Tech during Orr's tenure and chairman of the computer science department at the time. "He — along with Professor Al Stavely and myself — was largely responsible for contributing new courses and upgrading the undergraduate curriculum."

"During my days at New Mexico Tech, I fell in love with the topic of computer science," Packard Orr says. "While Patrick was still alive, I took most of my classes from him. When he died, I really felt that everything I knew about the subject, I had learned from him. . . . It was a terrible blow to lose him."

According to local newspaper accounts, Patrick K. Orr died in an Albuquerque hospital three days after he collapsed while riding his bicycle south of Socorro, on his way back from having lunch in San Antonio.

After Orr's death, Packard Orr continued on with her graduate studies at New Mexico Tech and finished up her master of science degree in computer science, "working with some other wonderful professors," she says.

"I learned a tremendous amount during my time at Tech," Packard Orr says. "And, I'm now hoping

that this endowment will help the university's computer science department continue to grow and thrive as it teaches future generations of budding computer scientists. . . . I also am pleased to provide a permanent memorial to a great teacher who left us far, far too early."

[Editor's note: There is also a Patrick Orr Memorial Award for a student. See p. 6.] 

Additional Endowments

In the Spring 2003 issue of *Gold Pan*, we printed a list of endowments at New Mexico Tech. Thanks to that list, we have been able to locate and add to the list many more endowments! The full list is at <http://infohost.nmt.edu/mainpage/giving/homepage.html>. If you know of any others we have inadvertently omitted, please contact Kathy Hedges, khedges@admin.nmt.edu.

Budding Geoscience Graduate Research Award — Anton Budding, a professor emeritus of geology at New Mexico Tech, and his wife Anita, (71, MST), established the Budding Geoscience Graduate Research Award in 1988. It benefits geoscience graduate students, and covers costs not usually met by other funding, such as field investigations, travel to scientific meetings, or defraying costs of the student's research.

John Farkas Scholarship — John Farkas, Jr., was a 1938 graduate of the New Mexico School of Mines, with a degree in

metallurgical engineering. He passed away on Jan. 14, 1986. He left instructions for his heirs to found this fund in appreciation of the excellent instruction and training he had received at the School of Mines, which made him highly esteemed by his employers. The fund benefits students who meet the qualifications for a Presidential Scholarship.

The John Harty Memorial Scholarship was established in 1967 for the purpose of providing a scholarship to a deserving student majoring in physics or geophysics at New Mexico Tech. The scholarship fund was endowed by Mrs. Bessie I. Harty, widow of John Harty, and friends of John Harty, in recognition of Professor Harty's contribution to the New Mexico Tech and to the State of New Mexico through his efforts in founding the Department of Physics and Geophysics at New Mexico Tech, for inaugurating the State Science Fair program in New Mexico, and for his many other contributions to education in the sciences in the state.

ISE Fund (Ideas in Science and Electronics) — This fund is to benefit a student or students in electrical engineering or computer science, who has a GPA of at least 3.0, is a resident of New Mexico, and is a full-time regularly enrolled student.

Melvin A. Jennings Scholarship — Melvin A. Jennings was a New Mexico Tech alumnus with degrees in chemistry (68, BS) and

metallurgy (78, MS). He was chief metallurgist at the New Mexico Bureau of Mines and Mineral Resources from 1979 to 1981. Over his career, he worked for ASARCO, Exxon, Echo Bay Mines, and Winters Engineers in Tucson, Ariz. He passed away on April 2, 1991. The fund in his name was established to benefit a student who is a U.S. citizen and is in the field of mining and/or minerals.

Jillson Family Memorial — This fund was named after Edwin T. (father) and Edwin J. (son) Jillson. Edwin T. was a 1969 graduate in mining engineering. The fund benefits a student in mining engineering.

Macey Scholars — The Macey Scholars Program was established by William (42, BS, petroleum engr.) and Jean Macey, longtime benefactors of New Mexico Tech. Its purpose is to recognize Tech students whose accomplishments in the classroom and/or research laboratory combined with participation in institutional service and other co-curricular activities bring credit to themselves and to New Mexico Tech. Those honored exemplify the spirit of Tech, and they will be among the next generation of leaders for New Mexico and the nation.

McClay-Kennedy Scholarship — The McClay-Kennedy Scholarship was established in 1981 by Leah F. Kennedy, in memory of her father, Owen McClay, a pioneer New Mexico oilman. After Leah Kennedy passed away on July 26, 1987, her name was

added to the scholarship. It provides scholarship assistance for students majoring in petroleum, natural gas, or geological engineering, or geology, geophysics, or geochemistry, with an emphasis on petroleum and gas operations. The scholarship is awarded by the chair of the Petroleum Engineering Department.

Matuszeski Graduate Research Fund — The Richard Matuszeski Graduate Research Fund was established to help fund the costs of research by graduate students, including publication costs and the payment of computer costs after principal funding has terminated.

Raymond R. Niles III Scholarship — Raymond R. Niles III, known to his friends as "Rudd" Niles, was a graduate student in biology who passed away in 1999. He had completed the course work for his master's degree and was well on the way to having his research done. He was awarded his master's degree posthumously.

This scholarship was established by his mother, Cynthia Niles, to benefit graduate students in biology. The endowment supports biology graduate students' activities, such as summer support, travel to scientific meetings, supplies, etc.

Patrick Orr Memorial Award — This award is given to an outstanding graduate student who demonstrates excellence in scholarship and potential for service in computer science

Honor a Great Techie!

Do you know a Tech alumnus who ought to be nominated for an award? This is your chance!

The Alumni Association gives two awards, one for Distinguished Service (to a person who need not be an alum) and one for Distinguished Achievement (to an alum). To nominate someone for one of these awards, send an email stating why you think the person deserves the award to Rose Baca at rbaca@admin.nmt.edu, or call her at 1-800-428-TECH, #4.

education.

Marvin Wilkening Award — This award was established by the Physics Department, in honor of Professor Emeritus Marvin Wilkening. The award is given to the graduating physics student who has demonstrated excellence in experimental physics. The award consists of a technical tool kit. [See p. 18 in this issue for a new chair honoring Marvin Wilkening.]

W. Paul and Frances N. Winn Scholarship — Professor William Winn of New Mexico Tech established this scholarship in the memory of his father and mother, W. Paul and Frances N. Winn, to benefit an undergraduate student majoring in physics or electrical engineering.

People You Know

1930s

Lawrence Nagle (38, BS, mining engineering) and his wife Joy dropped by the Alumni Office during a visit to Socorro from their home in Stephenville, Texas. Lawrence is retired from the oil and natural gas industry. He toured campus and reminisced about Prof. John Weir and Pres. Edgar H. Wells, both of whom he had known and who now have buildings on the Tech campus named after them. Joy's great-nephew Michael Cannady is a current Tech student.

1950s

Michael Bikerman (56, BS, geology), emeritus professor at the University of Pittsburgh, has been elected President of the Pittsburgh Geological Society for 2003-2004 for the second time. His first term was back in 1977-78, so continuity is not assured!

Rudy Jacobson (58, BS, metallurgical engr.; 65, MS, metallurgical engr.; 72, Ph.D., geochemistry) is living in Austin, Texas. He and his group are working on a project to develop simple, low-cost desalination plants to produce clean water and chlorine bleach for third-world countries.

Rudy has three granddaughters, thanks to his son Grant (who went to school in Socorro and caddied at the Tech Golf Course). They are Brittany, age 11; Lindsey, age 7.5; and Merranda, age 3.5.

Thomas J. "Jerry" Reese (58, BS, geology) was a semi-finalist in the GoldCorp Challenge, in which GoldCorp posted geological data on its Red Lake Mine (Ontario, Canada) online and challenged participants to identify potential targets for more gold exploration. Over 1,400 geologists and companies from 51 countries registered for the competition, and Jerry was one of only three semifinalists selected from the United States.

Jerry also brought us up-to-date on his life and doings: "After I received my degree from New Mexico Tech, I worked at the City Engineer's Office in Albuquerque, then entered the U.S. Air Force, which sent me to Ohio State University for my master's degree in geodetic science. After the Air Force stint, I did graduate work in economic geology at Colorado School of Mines.

"I retired from the U. S. Department of Energy (DOE) at the end of 2001, where I worked as a senior physical scientist for 17 years, principally working on projects for deep geologic disposal of radioactive nuclear waste. Prior to joining DOE, I spent 11 years in mineral exploration, mainly in the western United States and South America, and three years as a mining geologist at the Homestake Gold Mine in the Black Hills of South Dakota. The ten years with the U.S. Air Force were spent primarily in geodetic surveying, establishing first-order base stations around

the world using photography of satellites.

"After my retirement, my wife (an Argentine whom I married in South America) and I moved to Buenos Aires, Argentina, where we have established our home."

Dr. Marvin W. Rowe (59, BS, chemistry) was named as a 2002-2003 Distinguished Lecturer at Texas A&M University. Two A&M professors are selected yearly for this honor based on research. He presented a public lecture on April 8 at the Bush Auditorium at A&M.

Rowe earned his Ph.D. in chemistry in 1966 at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville. From 1966 to 1968, he was a post-doctoral fellow at the Miller Institute for Basic Research in Science (physics) at the University of California, Berkeley. He married Kathleen Craig in November 2002, and they plan to retire to Santa Fe in the near future.

1960s

John H. Carman (60, MS, Earth science) writes that he has retired from the University of Iowa, but is still interested in how the Earth works. His company, CareMan Enterprises, has recently published his article "The Core as the Third Pivotal End Member of the Earth's Plate Tectonic Cycle."

Tim Pearse (60, BS, geology) writes, "After receiving my bachelor's in geology, I went to Missouri School of Mines and obtained a master's in mining engineering. My first job was as a

trainee with Kennecott Copper in Silver City, N. M. As part of my training, I worked in the maintenance shop, and fell in love with the work. So, for the next 39 years I worked in maintenance of open pit mining equipment with Kennecott, B. C Molybdenum, Anaconda and Kaiser Steel, finally retiring from International Mill Service as Director of Equipment and Maintenance.

"It has been a wild and fun-filled trip; however, had I known how much fun retirement would be, I would have done it first! (Kind of like grandkids.) In 2001, I retired and moved from New Jersey to Illinois. My children are all adults and remain in New Jersey. My first wife, Eleanor, died in 1993 and I am remarried to Betsy. I now live between the Illinois River and the Mississippi River in Calhoun County, Illinois. The geology here is very interesting and I am just now getting back to my first love while still enjoying heavy equipment.

"I would like to hear from old friends and friends-to-be. My e-mail address is owlwolf@618connect.com."

Jim Rowles (65, BS, chemistry) writes "After working as a chemical technician, a chemical engineer, a Scientology counselor, a radiation safety (health physics) officer and state inspector, a health physicist and then industrial hygienist at the Nevada Test Site and the Yucca Mountain Project, old Jim Rowles let semi-retirement set in. My wife, June, and I will leave Las Vegas, Nev., in two or so years for cooler and

mountainous climes: Ruidoso, Cedar Crest, Cedar City (Utah), or north central Washington state."

Jim adds a personal note: "I have learned and gained from the School of Mines, and other venues. I had to learn that LIFE is a learn-it-as-you-go thing. Lots of luck on your journeys."

Cecil Rhodes Wilks, Jr. (68, BS, physics; 73, MS, physics) is retired from U.S. Government Civil Service. Much of his work involved missiles and telemetry systems. In 1988, Cecil was awarded the U.S. Navy Superior Civilian Achievement Award for performance leading to TACTS Contract efficiencies, saving the Navy millions of dollars in operation and maintenance of TACTS (Top Gun) Ranges. In 1993, he was awarded a commendation from Commander Naval Air Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet, for innovative thinking to increase the effectiveness of aircrew pilot tactics training capabilities. In 1994, he was presented the Superior Civilian Service Award, the second highest award a US Government civilian may receive.

Cecil is active in the Church of Latter Day Saints, which he joined in 1959. He and Linda Sue Hill, whom he married in 1965, have three sons: Cecil Lynn, Edward Jacob, and J. Brady.

1970s

Tom Dolittle (72, BS, computer science) writes, "After spending 15 years with the County of Santa Barbara as the network and

operations manager, I 'retired' and began a second career as the information systems manager for the City of Santa Barbara. I am responsible for all servers, desktops, applications, help desk and network for the paradise area of California known as Santa Barbara."

Tom adds, "Please drop by and visit. Let's reacquaint and enjoy life."

Tom's wife, Lorrie LeSage, is a marriage and family therapist. Son Chris, 30, is also in Santa Barbara.

NOTE: News that came in since January 2004 will appear in the next issue of Gold Pan.

Dr. John F. Alderete (73, BS, math; 74, BS, biology) was awarded the 2003 Distinguished Scientist Award by The Society for the Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS). The award was presented at the SACNAS Annual Conference in Albuquerque in October. Dr. Alderete dedicated his award to Dr. C. B. Moore, who was featured in the last issue of *Gold Pan*, and whom he regarded as an important role model during his college years.

Dr. Alderete is a professor of microbiology at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio.

Charles G. (Jerry) White (73, BS, biology) is working for the Visiting Nurse Association of Central New Jersey as an HIV social work case manager. He is

also pursuing an advanced social work degree at Rutgers University. He has recently purchased 40 acres in Hildago County, New Mexico.

Dr. Jim Olsen, P.E., (75, BS, mining engr.) was named Honored Faculty Member by the University of Phoenix, New Mexico campus, at commencement exercises on June 7 in Albuquerque. Olsen teaches a variety of classes including statistics, research methods, project management, college algebra, economics, environmental science, and a variety of management courses. In addition, Olsen serves as an area chair for quantitative analysis and research at the graduate level and previously as area chair for mathematics at the undergraduate level.

Outside of his role at the University of Phoenix, Olsen oversees the management training programs for Wackenhut Services, Inc., where his organization has a contract with the Central Training Academy of the U.S. Department of Energy. His previous experience also includes working as a professional engineer in water and wastewater utility engineering and operations management, as well as construction project management.

Dr. Terry Wallace (78, BS, geophysics; 78, BS, math) has returned to his hometown of Los Alamos after working as a professor at the University of Arizona from 1983 to 2003. Wallace now works for Los Alamos National Laboratory as division leader of Earth and Environmental Sci-

ences. The EES team is researching geological systems over the past 10,000 years in order to design a structure that will remain intact for the next 10,000 years.

1980s

Dr. Charlotte Rowe (81, BS, geology; 00, Ph.D., geophysics) is a seismologist at Los Alamos National Laboratory. She writes, "I've recently been converted from a postdoctoral research associate to permanent staff member at Los Alamos. Finally after the years of student funding uncertainty and year-to-year postdocs, a real job! It feels good."

Dr. Scott Tyler (83, MS, hydrology) was named a Fellow of both the American Society of Agronomy and the Soil Science Society of America at an annual meeting of the organizations held on Nov. 2 - 6, 2003. Dr. Tyler is professor of hydrology at the Department of Geological Sciences at the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) and director of UNR's Graduate Program of Hydrologic Sciences.

Dr. Tyler's research focuses on vadose zone hydrology, with emphasis on water and solute dynamics in arid regions. His research on the use of arid vadose zones as archives of paleoclimate has led to significant advances in the understanding of past and present desert water balances. He serves as deputy editor of *Water Resources Research* and associate editor of *Soil and Tillage Research, Groundwa-*

ter and the *Hydrogeology Journal*.

Luke Jones (84, BS, computer science) writes, "We recently moved from Fort Collins, Colorado, back to New Jersey, where I have entered Princeton Theological Seminary. In just three short years, I expect to receive a master's degree in divinity and, soon afterward, to be ordained a pastor in the Presbyterian Church. My wife Margo (BS-ME Stanford, MS-ME CMU) continues in her job as a stay-at-home mom. Iris, 4, will be in pre-school two days a week, and Neil, 6, enters first grade. We'd love to hear from Tech friends."

David P. Jenkins (86, BS, math; 86, BS, petroleum engr.) writes, "This is my first letter to *Gold Pan* since I graduated in 1986. I joined Standard Alaska Production Company (SOHIO's Alaska division) out of college. After three years, SOHIO was purchased outright by British Petroleum. I spent my first seven years in Alaska, the next six years in England, and the last four years back in Alaska. I am in transition from my current job (Viscous Oil Development Team Leader for the Alaskan Milne Point Field); and expect to move out of Alaska again some time this year.

"I married my wife, Sylvia, the day before I graduated. We now have two daughters Valerie, 12, and Erica, 13, to help keep us out of trouble.

"Over the years, I have worked and bumped shoulders with other New Mexico Tech graduates (including Jeff Eckstein, Mike

Watts, James Trantham, Rodney Stephens, Susan Starr, Robert Jackson, and Susan Sears). I have to say — NMIMT puts out some darn good engineers.

“Best regards to my fellow 1986 graduates. Wherever you are, I hope you are doing well! If you see this note, drop me a line at jenkindp@bp.com.”

Karen Brown (87, MS, geology) works for Willamette University in Salem, Ore., as tutoring coordinator for a high school outreach program. The program tutors students from under-represented groups, helping prepare them for college. Karen, her husband Bob, and their two teenage children, live in Independence, Ore., in an airpark where they can keep their Cessna 182 in the hangar attached to their house and taxi to an airport. Karen and Bob became private pilots in 1997.

Dr. David Roberts (88, BS, chemistry) brought us up-to-date on his life since graduation from Tech. Attending graduation at the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee, he met and married Jacqueline, a fellow chemistry graduate student. After they both received Ph.D.s in chemistry, they did post-docs at the Medical College of Wisconsin. Jackie received a faculty position at DePauw University in Greencastle, and the family moved there. Their daughter Jessica was born in 1998.

David writes, “Greencastle is a small town (10,000), and I wanted to get more involved with

the town. I thought it would be cool to be able to volunteer some sort of service using my degree, so I found the fire chief and asked how I could help with haz-mat related responses. So, I became a firefighter. I do everything from dealing with burning buildings to car wrecks, but I’m also the town’s haz-mat specialist. Since then, we have developed a haz-mat response team, which I help organize. I am a volunteer firefighter (we have a combination department, with both volunteer and career). Also, since doing all of this, DePauw has found a position for me as administrative staff (teaching, haz-mat specialist, etc.)

Tim Stirrup (88, BS, biology; 88, BS, chemistry) has moved to a job at Outrider Environmental Planning and Technical Services in Albuquerque. Tim is vice president for Science and Engineering Technical Services, and he provides senior-level integrated environmental health and safety services to a diverse set of clients in New Mexico.

The Stirrup Family is doing well and is enjoying life in Corrales. **Barbara (Serna) Stirrup** (89, BS, technical communication) has her hands full with Darby, 2, Kerry Ann 6, and Emily 7, and her active involvement in the community.

Alan Matthew Hill (89, BS, petroleum engineering) is married to **Jennifer Plisga Hill** (89, BS, biology), who got her M.D. degree in 1995 from the University of Texas. Matt writes, “Almost 15 years since graduation!

Two kids (Paige is 7 and Sophia is 3) and a few more degrees between us — MS, MBA, and MD. While Jennifer does not practice medicine, she teaches quilting and loves to cook. We are headed to Jakarta, Indonesia for a few years so Matt can support Unocal’s new Deepwater developments . . . and travel!”

1990s

Brett Liggett (90, BS, petroleum engr.) writes, “After five years in Houston, my wife, Cary, and I decided to move home to Colorado. I worked a deepwater completion engineer assignment for ExxonMobil in Equatorial Guinea for the past year on a rotational basis. A new assignment will place me in Angola for the next few years. Cary continues to enjoy her career as the process improvement manager for EDS in Colorado Springs. Our son Andrew likes the high-country living and is a devout Taekwondo disciple.”

NOTE: News that came in since January 2004 will appear in the next issue of Gold Pan.

Dennis Reda (91, BS, math; 94, MS, math) writes, “While working on a second bachelor’s degree (computer science) at UNLV, I met my future wife Clare. She was working as a risk analyst in Las Vegas, and we met playing Ultimate Frisbee. We were married on November 24, 2002, and in the months since I’ve completed my studies, and we’ve relocated to Ridgecrest, Calif.

“I’m working as a warfare analyst at China Lake Naval Weapons Center. Clare, who has a BS in math from CSU Chico and a master’s degree in statistics from the University of Kentucky, is working in the GPS Navigation Systems branch. No kids yet; we want to travel and see some of the world before starting a family. Europe is in the works for next year, after that, perhaps Turkey or South Africa. If there are any old friends in the Ridgecrest area, I’m in the phone book!”

Melissa Allison-Ennis (93, BS, biology) and **David J. Ennis** (94, BS, geology; 96, MS, geochemistry) write, “We recently moved back to Las Cruces, N.M., after living in southern California for four years. While in California, David worked for the County of Ventura Environmental Health Division as a project manager, providing oversight for the clean-up of leaking underground fuel tanks.

“Melissa became employed with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service while attending NMSU in 1997, and was offered a permanent position upon completion of her degree in 1998. She was employed at the Hopper Mountain National Wildlife Refuge, where she was the refuge manager for two wildlife refuges.

“While Southern California was very nice, the cost of living was high, and we both missed New Mexico. The opportunity to return came when David was offered a position as a project geoscientist with his former employer in Las Cruces, Souder,

Miller & Associates. Melissa was also just recently offered a wildlife biologist position with the same employer. We are enjoying being back, and also enjoying our first home.”

Michael Portereiko (93, BS, biology) writes, “A lot has happened in recent months. My wife, Brandi, and I were blessed with a little girl, Ann Elise, on Sept. 4, 2002. We bought a new home in Salt Lake the day before Ann was born. Lastly, I finished my Ph.D. in oncology at the University of Utah. I’m now doing a post-doc in the biology department.”

Cindy Falkenstein (95, AGS) brought us up-to-date on the activities herself and her husband **Matthew Falkenstein** (96, BGS). They returned to the Washington, D.C. area after spending five enchanting years in New Mexico. They now live in La Plata, Md., with their daughter Sonya Corinne, who was born in 2000. Matt has been working for the Census Bureau as a mathematical statistician. He recently moved over to the Business Statistics Division where he will be working on the Bureau’s Economic Census.

Cindy worked for the Census Bureau’s Geography Division during the 2000 census; then she took a position with Tele Atlas, North America, Inc. as the regional data collection manager for a project which provided ground truth data for digital mapping of the entire United States. She is now back at the Bureau of the Census working as an IT consultant in the Geogra-

phy Division.

Cindy reports that, when Matt is not driving his red 1961 Buick Le Sabre convertible, he is working towards his master’s certificate in project management in a joint Census/George Washington University program. Cindy is heavily involved with AAUW Maryland and is also working towards her certification in software engineering management. Both Cindy and Matt hold degrees from New Mexico State University: Cindy’s in city and regional planning and in geography, and Matt’s in agricultural economics.

Rico Espindola (96, BS, physics) and **Teresa Espindola** (97, BS, biology) would like to announce the birth of their daughter, Angelina Jayleen, born June 6, 2003. Rico is currently working as an Orbital Analyst with ASRC Aerospace on Kirtland Air Force Base. Teresa is enjoying staying home with the baby while running a home-based graphics design business.

Dennis Walsh (96, BS, business management) and his wife **Delilah (Vega) Walsh** (97, BS, psychology) report, “Our newest family addition is Joshua Ivan Walsh, born on September 4, 2003. He was 19 inches long and weighed 7 lbs., 10 oz. He joins his 6-year-old big brother Jacob Daniel. We made the decision to remain in Socorro when Jacob was born and have enjoyed it tremendously. Dennis works with NRAO as a systems analyst in the MIS department. Delilah is an assistant vice president for First

State Bank, where she is in charge of Human Resources and Strategic Development. We'd both love to hear from old friends at dwalsh@aoc.nrao.edu or dwalsh@socorrobanking.com.

Elizabeth (Griffith) Heard (97, BS, geology) and **Ray Heard** (97, BS, electrical engr.) were pleased to announce the birth of their son Glenn on July 8. Elizabeth adds, "He was a little premature at 4 pounds, 3 ounces, but is doing just great! We would love to hear from old classmates at: basalt@zoominternet.net or rayzer@zoominternet.net.

Jennifer Knowlton (97, BS, environmental engr.; 99, MS, environmental engr.) and her husband **Brad** (attended Tech 93-95) welcomed their second son, Trenton James on April 9. He was a whopping 9 pounds, 13 ounces. He is growing well and mom is adjusting to working with two small children. Older brother Wesley was born on Nov. 3, 2001.

Jennifer adds, "On the professional side, I passed the PE exam, and I am now a Registered Professional Engineer in the states of New Mexico and Wyoming."

Shari Bauman (99, MS, geochemistry) lives in the Tucson, Ariz., area. She works for Turner Laboratories, a small, women-owned, environmental analytical laboratory, where she was recently promoted to laboratory director. She adds, "I oversee the daily operations of the facility, manage analysts, provide quality assurance, manage clients,

and complete the reporting for the laboratory, and then some. This is a position that most acquire after years of experience. I can only say that hard work has its benefits!"

Cory Cogdill (99, BS, chemical engr.) married April Roberts on July 12, 2003, in Roswell. Cory teaches high school at Faith Academy in Manila, Philippines, where April is a volunteer working with children.

2000s

David Bonal (00, BS, computer science; 00, BS, electrical engineering) married **Nedra Alexander** (00, BS, geophysics with geological and environmental studies option) on Saturday, April 19, 2003, in Austin, Texas. David is working at National Instruments, while Nedra is pursuing her Ph.D. at the University of Texas at Austin.

Mason Hutchinson (00, BS, engineering mechanics) married **Cara Nichole Roberts** on Sept. 27, 2003. Mason is a research engineer for Ball Aerospace and Technologies Corp., and Cara, who has a degree in fine arts, is employed by Studios Contemporary Art Gallery.

Timothy Sande (00, BS, petr. engr.; 02, MS, petr. engr.) married **Leah Nicole Gassner** of Albuquerque on May 26, 2003. She is a 2003 graduate of New Mexico Highlands University. The Sandes live in Birmingham, Ala.

Marty (Martha) Jonas (01, BS, technical communication) and **Dennis Lee** (03, MS, geology) were married on Aug. 2, 2003.

Distinguished Teaching Award

Was there a great teacher at Tech who influenced your learning, career, and life? Nominate that person for the Distinguished Teaching Award. Email Debby Olguin, Office of Academic Affairs, dolguin@admin.nmt.edu with the reasons you think the person should get the award. The award will be presented at Commencement on May 15, so send in your nomination as soon as possible!

Dennis is a petroleum engineering working in the Gulf of Mexico. Marty has been project coordinator for the Office for Advancement for the past three years, and will be joining Dennis in Lafayette, La.

Stephanie Marie Baca (02, BGS) and **Robert Brewer** (02, BS, engr. mech.; 03, MS, engr. mech.) were married on Aug. 30, at San Miguel Mission in Socorro. The couple live in Ridgecrest, Calif., where Rob works for China Lake Naval Testing Facility.

Meghan Wingate (02, BS, computer science) and **Danny Quist** (01, BS, computer science) were married at Fuller Lodge in Los Alamos on June 7. Danny writes, "We are both employed at Los Alamos National Laboratory. Our two dogs, Murray and Gracey, as well as we ourselves, miss the green campus of Tech, but we are happy here in the mountains."

In Memoriam: Dr. Clay T. Smith A Student's Commentary

by *William X. Chávez, Jr.* (76, B.S., geology), professor of mineral engineering

[Editor's note: Clay T. Smith passed away on Nov. 10, 2003, shortly after a major stroke. Dr. Chávez delivered this tribute at the memorial service.]

The definition of "Professor" may be found in any dictionary; however, as students at the New Mexico School of Mines, those of us that were fortunate enough to be students of Clay Taylor Smith (most of us called him either "Dr. Smith", sometimes "Doc" or, more commonly, "Clay T.") know that his professional and personal life really defined "Professor" and that we had no need of a dictionary to understand the meaning of that term.

We also learned about personal aspects of this professor: those things in which he believed, especially good, solid field mapping and essential rock and mineral identification skills, and in those aspects of academe in which he did not believe ... perhaps most notably, reflected on each of our academic records, was that of grade inflation. The rigor with which Dr. Smith graded his students served us well, as those in other academic institutions or those within industry recognized that if one fared well enough to receive a "B" from a Smith course, then that student must be pretty good. This respect from other geoscientists is reflected in the fact that



his students have gone on to become exploration managers, long-term field geologists, mine managers, and professors.

To us as his students he stressed professional involvement, and he set an example for us through his local and international participation in educational activities. Because he served as the Society of Economic Geologists Secretary for the Thayer Lindsley lecturer committee for more than 20 years, we here at the New Mexico School of Mines enjoyed more than our share of visits from Thayer Lindsley Lecturers, thanks to Dr. Smith's constant request that such distinguished geoscientists include Socorro on their lecture circuits. Because of his insistence that students become involved with any variety of geoscience issues, and because he offered so much of his time to the Society of Economic Geologists, Dr. Smith was honored by that organization in 1995 with the prestigious Marsden Medal,

awarded to that person who serves the Society – as a volunteer – with distinction and merit.

Having a background in minerals exploration allowed Dr. Smith to provide us with incentives to employ the practical aspects of our education, especially mapping skills and the ability to recognize what makes a prospect an orebody, and what makes an orebody a mine. This emphasis on applied field skills was evident throughout his career; as students we remember this emphasis as field geologist Smith trued along in the field with us, usually with one of his faithful dogs. Although most of the time those dogs were quiet (probably because they were busy eating the lunch of some unfortunate student who had stashed their sack meal under some creosote bush), we often did hear Dr. Smith barking at us to take another strike and dip, to plot a survey point correctly, and/or to identify that rock unit in some impossible outcrop. Dr. Smith loved field work, and was in the field, encouraging (yes, "barking at" may be a better phrase) students, until October.

One might comment that these services mark a goodbye to an individual; really, although we have come to honor and reflect on the life of an individual, we can very much say that "Clay T." lives on in the attitudes, polish, and professional contributions to geology, to exploration, and to education in and of his students, launched as we were by the fire of our professor, mentor, and friend.

Obituaries

Gus Blaisdell, who taught philosophy and mathematics at New Mexico Tech during the early 1970s, passed away on Sept. 17. After leaving Tech, Blaisdell taught at the University of New Mexico for almost 25 years. He had wide-ranging interests in areas such as still photography, motion pictures, painting, and philosophy, and he helped establish a department in media arts at UNM.

Lee Allan Bessey (67, BS, math), age 58, died July 6 of hypertension at his home in Riverside, Calif. Born in Minnesota, Mr. Bessey lived in Riverside 13 years, after living in Corona for six years. He was a civilian weapons analyst with the U.S. Navy's Fleet Analysis Center, part of the Naval Warfare Assessment Station in Norco, for more than 28 years before he retired in 1995.

Lee was a photographer at high school marching band, dance team, and drum corps competitions in the Riverside area from 1995 until 2002.

He is survived by two sons, Jason of Moreno Valley and Matthew of Riverside, a brother Mike of Washington; and two sisters, Patty Green and Diana Spicer, both of Washington.

Lee's classmate, Robert Kelher (67, BS, math), writes, "Lee will be greatly missed by family and friends. Go in peace my friend."



Dr. Martin Friberg

Martin Friberg, emeritus professor of mathematics at New Mexico Tech, passed away on Dec. 23, 2003, at the age of 93. Friberg taught math at Tech from 1951 until 1975.

Martin Friberg was born in 1910 in Winona, Minn., and grew up in Wisconsin. He received his degrees from Wisconsin State College (bachelor's), the Univer-

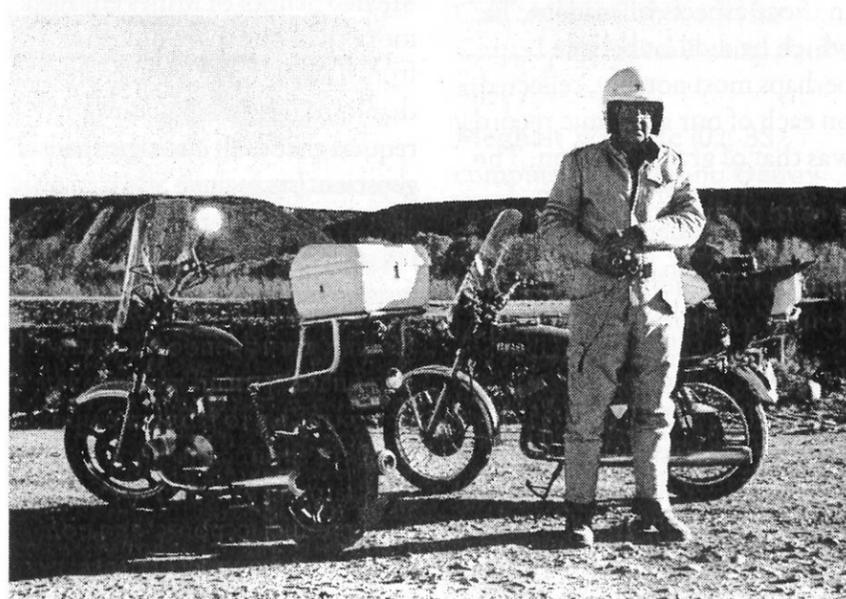
sity of Wisconsin (master's), and the University of Minnesota (Ph.D.) Following an early first marriage and the birth of his eldest son, Clint, Friberg met his second wife, Mary Dorothy Schooley, at a military base where he taught for several years. The couple married in 1949 and in 1951 moved to Socorro, where Martin took a teaching job offered by Pres. E. J. Workman.

Students gave him the nickname of "Flash" when, at the age of 60, he bought two motorcycles, a jumpsuit, and a helmet. After his retirement, he made some trips by motorcycle, accompanied by his son Stephen.

After Dorothy passed away in 1990, Friberg moved to Las Cruces to live with Greg, his youngest son. The two of them moved back to Socorro in the spring of 2003.

A longer obituary by Valerie Kimble is online at <http://dchieftain.com/cuentos/37010-01-14-04.html>.

"Flash" Friberg



Dr. Carlos Ernesto Garcia, who taught at New Mexico Tech during the 1960s, passed away on Sept. 29, 2003. Alumnus Robert E. Chaney (79, BS, metallurgical engr.) wrote, "I knew Dr. Garcia back in the late 1970s when I was attending Tech. At the time, my father was running an aircraft restoration shop. I assisted Carlos and my father in the restoration of a 1947 Stinson Voyager. Carlos Garcia was a brilliant man, and all who had the honor to work with him are feeling his loss."

Garcia was killed when his 1947 Beechcraft Bonanza crashed west of Belen. He was born in Las Vegas, N.M. in 1936. He earned his bachelor's, master's, and Ph.D. degrees in mechanical engineering at New Mexico State University. He was a Registered Professional Engineer. He held many distinguished positions, working for the U.S. Army at White Sands Missile Range, and for Douglas Aircraft, the Department of Energy, and Los Alamos National Laboratory.

Kenneth Griego, a special graduate student at New Mexico Tech, was killed in a motorcycle accident on July 26, at the age of 34. Griego was an electrical engineer who had worked at Sandia National Laboratories for six years. He was enrolled in a special New Mexico Tech program to obtain a master's degree in mechanical engineering through distance education.

Griego had a bachelor's degree from New Mexico State and a master's degree from Clemson

University, both in electrical engineering. He is survived by his wife, Reane; son, Tomas; and daughter, Mackenzie.

Francis U. Hammel, Class of 1923, passed away on Aug. 26, 2003, at the age of 102.

Hammel was born in Socorro in 1901, son of the family who owned the Hammel brewery, later the Hammel icehouse, and now the Hammel Museum. As a boy, he spent summer vacations delivering ice to families by horse and buggy. During his days as a student at the School of Mines, he met and married Alma Philipp, daughter of the owner of Socorro's five-and-dime.

Francis' son, Bill, recalled, "The family had a large two-story home on California St. on one acre of ground. Our grandmother lived there till her death. Our dad had many fond memories of Socorro and wanted to go back to visit before his death."

After graduating from the School of Mines, Hammel worked for the U. S. Boundary Commission, mapping the border between the U. S. and Mexico, and also state borders. According to his children, he "walked or rode a horse from the Gulf of Mexico to the Pacific Ocean, checking and repairing boundary markers between Mexico and the United States."

In 1927, Francis and Alma moved to Los Angeles. He worked for the L. A. Parks and Recreation Dept., where he eventually became a supervisor. After he retired in 1966, he and

Alma moved to a ranch in Gardena, Calif., and eventually to Lake Forest, Calif., in Orange County.

Bill Hammel recalls, "His love was gardening and every home of his had a beautiful rose garden and countless flowers. He was named "Lake Forest Gardener of the Year" three years in a row. But the real love of his life was his wife, Alma."

Alma passed away in 1995, after 71 years of marriage. In her memory, Francis planted a pink rose bush, called "Unforgettable." Francis's son Bill and daughter-in-law, Jackie, have two sons, Andrew and James.

Dr. John Heller, senior scientist emeritus at the Petroleum Recovery Research Center, passed away on Dec. 1, 2003. He was 80.

Heller earned his B.S. in physics and mathematics at Queens College, New York, in 1940. He received his Ph.D. in experimental physics from Iowa State University in 1953. From 1953 to 1979, he worked for Mobil Research and Development Corporation in several research and technical groups. Heller came to New Mexico Tech's PRRC in 1979. He was senior scientist and head of a group studying mobility control in CO₂ flooding and reservoir heterogeneities. He was also an adjunct professor in the Department of Petroleum and Natural Gas Engineering. Dr. Heller retired in December 1995 after sixteen years at the PRRC.

Dr. Joe Taber, director emeritus of PRRC, recalled, "When the PRRC was founded, we were

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looking for the best possible staff members, and I remember how happy we were to recruit John Heller. He was a top scientist and a special individual, with an excellent background in the physics of oil recovery, which was just what we wanted. He was a good mathematician with a knack for understanding complicated relationships and explaining them clearly to others. Whenever we had a tough technical question, John was the one we went to. He had a wonderful sense of humor, too, that we will all miss."

The Alumni Office received word that **Dr. Philip Keim** (66, BS, chemistry) passed away on March 21 at his home in Stroudsburg, Penn. He requested no obituary. He was a 1966 alumnus and earned his Ph.D. in 1970.

Ruth Miriam Keizer, widow of Dr. Clifford Keizer, former professor of chemistry at New Mexico Tech, passed away on Oct. 28, 2003, just one week short of her 86th birthday. She was born in South Dakota but, as the daughter of a Methodist minister, moved frequently during her youth. While she was teaching high school in Byron Center, Michigan, one of her students introduced her to his older brother, Cliff. Clifford and Ruth Keizer were married in 1943. His teaching jobs took them to many places, including Bandung, Indonesia, where she taught English to neighbors and Cliff's chemistry majors. She also formed a cooperative international school where she served as

principal, as well as an upper elementary teacher. The Keizers returned to the United States in 1962 and moved to Socorro in 1964, when Cliff joined the chemistry faculty at Tech. Ruth taught chemistry, physics, biology, and English at Socorro High until her retirement in 1980. While teaching, she also earned her MST degree at New Mexico Tech. Ruth and Cliff were active members of the First Presbyterian Church. Dr. Clifford Keizer passed away in 1998, and their son, Richard Paul, has also passed away. They are survived by their daughter, Linda McNatt, of Albuquerque, and two grandchildren.

Robert Hay Lane, a 1950 alumnus with a degree in mining engineering, passed away on April 2.

Robert was born on March 30, 1922, in Berlin, Penn. He graduated in 1940 from Berlin Brothersvalley High School, where he was editor of the yearbook, a player on the basketball team, and a member of the Fife and Drum Corps. He then attended New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology, but his education was interrupted by World War II.

He was proud to serve his country in France and Italy. He was a staff sergeant with Bomb Maintenance Techs 683 of the 1257th Army Air Force and the 484th Bomb Group. After his honorable discharge, he graduated with degrees in mining engineering and geology.

He began his engineering career with International Mining Corporation in Carlsbad, N.M. His work for IMC included living in Canada for three years.

Bob retired from Kerr-McGee Potash Company in 1992, having moved to Hobbs in 1965. He was active in the Masonic Lodge, Shrine Clowns, the Presbyterian Church, American Legion, VFW Post 3274, and Fraternal Order of Eagles. He loved gardening, hunting, fishing, attending professional golf tournaments, and building radio controlled model airplanes. In later years, he won many ribbons in the country and state fairs for his needlework (long stitch and embroidery).

Robert married Catherine Clarke on Sept. 14, 1948, at First Presbyterian Church in Socorro. Catherine was the daughter of Dr. Clarence C. Clarke, D.D.S., and Myrtle Cedar Clarke of Socorro. Catherine preceded Bob in death in 1993. He is survived by four children (and their spouses): Robert Clarke Lane of Coppel, Texas; Martha Lane of Albuquerque, N.M.; Barbara Lane of Hobbs, N.M.; and Clare Lane Nickel of Abilene, Texas; and six grandchildren. He was a devoted father as well as a loving and generous grandfather.

Dr. Adrian Marroquin, died of cancer on Sept. 30, at HospiceCare Center of Boulder & Broomfield Counties in Louisville, Colo. He was 59. Born Oct. 2, 1943, in La Palma, Colombia, he was the son of Martin Marroquin and Felisa Serrato Marroquin. He earned his doctor-

ate in atmospheric physics at New Mexico Tech in 1981.

Dr. Marroquin was a scientist at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration for 12 years and also worked at Colorado State University in the Cooperative Institute of Research in the Atmosphere. He lived in Louisville for the last 14 years, after moving from Boulder where he had lived for 10 years. Dr. Marroquin was a member of Sacred Heart of Mary Catholic Church of Boulder.

Dr. Jacques Renault, emeritus senior geologist of the New Mexico Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources, passed away on Dec. 3, 2003 at the age of 70.

Renault was born in 1933 in Alameda, Calif. He married Magali Larose in Carmel, Calif., in 1956. Jacques and Magali moved to Socorro in 1957 to further his studies at New Mexico Tech. In 1960, the family moved to Toronto, Canada, where Jacques completed his Ph.D. in geology, after which Jacques, Magali, and their daughters Elise and Claire returned to Socorro, where he joined the Bureau of Mines.

Jacques was remembered as a multi-faceted individual with interests in many areas. He was a founding member of New Mexico Tech's Performing Arts Series. He played guitar, French horn, lute, and Cajun accordion. His interests also included woodworking and poetry.

He was baptized into the Catholic faith at San Miguel Church in

Socorro on July 14, 1979 (the 190th anniversary of Bastille Day). He was very active in the parish, serving as president of San Miguel School board, and in many other roles.

Dr. Clay T. Smith, longtime professor of geology, passed away on Nov. 10, 2003, at the age of 86. Smith was known to generations of Socorroans and New Mexico Tech students. He first came in September 1947 to the then New Mexico School of Mines, having earned his bachelor's, master's, and Ph.D. degrees at Caltech. Over the years, he served as professor of geology, director of New Mexico State Science & Engineering Fair, and director of Alumni Relations, before he nominally "retired" in 1986. However, even in retirement, Clay was always busy — consulting in geology, and carrying out activities in the Socorro Lions' Club, Presbyterian Church, and Friends of Bosque del Apache.

Donations in memory of Clay T. Smith may be made to New Mexico Science and Engineering Fair and mailed to the fair at 801 Leroy Place, Socorro, N.M. 87801. [See speech by Dr. William X. Chávez on p. 13]

Ruby B. Wilkening, wife of Marvin Wilkening, emeritus professor of physics, passed away on June 20, one month short of her 83rd birthday.

Ruby was born in Cape Girardeau, Missouri, to Edna and James A. Barks. She earned a bachelor's degree from Southeast



Ruby Wilkening

Missouri State University and taught high school mathematics and English in Jackson, Missouri, until her marriage to fellow teacher Marvin Wilkening in 1942. They moved to New Mexico in 1944, living for a brief period in Los Alamos near the end of WWII. They returned to live in Socorro in 1948.

Ruby was very involved in the Socorro community. She was a supporter of the Socorro Public Library and was active in St. Paul's United Methodist Church, Girl Scouts of America, the Socorro Branch of the American Association of University Women.

She was also an outdoors woman. An avid bird watcher and angler, she accompanied Marvin on many hunting trips and some grueling hikes in the Gila Wilderness. From the time they moved to Socorro to the last months of

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New Mexico Tech

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her life, she enjoyed bird watching in the Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge. With Marvin, she enjoyed entertaining friends, family, and Tech's foreign visitors at the log cabin they constructed in 1956 in Catron County.

Ruby is survived by her husband of 60 years, Marvin H. Wilkening of Socorro; daughter Laurel and her husband Godfrey Sill of Elgin, Arizona; son Wes and his wife Mary of Albuquerque; sister Normal Palm of Dallas, Texas; granddaughter Whitney of Albuquerque; and a host of dear friends.

Wilkenings To Be Honored

Two different projects are underway to memorialize and salute the Wilkening family. [Ruby Wilkening passed away in 2003; Dr. Marvin Wilkening, professor emeritus of physics, is in Socorro Good Samaritan Nursing Home.]

First, a memorial to Ruby Wilkening has been planned by the staff of Dr. Wes Wilkening, who is the son of Ruby and Marvin, and who is an optometrist in Albuquerque. The memorial is a bench to be placed at the Tech Golf Course with a plaque honoring Ruby, who spent many of her happiest hours on the course. A dedication involv-

ing family and friends will take place later this spring.

The second project is the Marvin H. Wilkening Endowed Faculty Development fund. The purpose of this fund is to eventually establish an endowed chair in the Physics Department, to be called the Marvin Wilkening Chair. Marvin's daughter, Dr. Laurel Wilkening, gave a substantial gift of stock, which is being matched by state funding. Our ultimate goal is to raise \$500,000 for the endowed chair, which will be matched by state monies.

Persons wishing to make a donation or inquire further may contact: Rose Baca, Alumni Relations, rbaca@admin.nmt.edu, or 1-800-428-8324, ext. 4.

New Mexico School of Mines

Alumni Recruiter

David McCorkindale (left) (1980, BS, geophysics) helped New Mexico Tech recruit students at the Katy (Texas) Independent School District's College Night on September 30, 2003. David and his wife Jackie are members of the Proud Parents Association, as their son Mike is a freshman at Tech.

To volunteer to help Tech's recruiting efforts, contact Marcelle England, Admission Office, at mengland@admin.nmt.edu or 1-800-428-8324.



Second Story Man?

No, he's not burglarizing the second floor of Fitch Hall. The venerable men's dormitory is being converted into offices. Students are increasingly being housed in apartments, rather than traditional dormitories, so the space is being put to other use.



Have you been promoted, received an award, changed jobs, moved? We are interested in you! So are your friends and fellow alums! You can also help us keep our *Gold Pan* mailing list up to date. Please give us your latest address and news. Send this form to: **Kathy Hedges, New Mexico Tech, 801 Leroy Place, Socorro, NM 87801**, or send e-mail to goldpan@nmt.edu.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

E-mail address _____ Year, degree, major: _____

News item: _____
