

GOLD MINER

Spring 2006

CHILDREN'S CENTER

The New Mexico Tech Children's Center, a full-time early childhood program in Socorro, offers high-quality, developmentally sound education, interaction, and care to the young children of the research university's students, faculty, and staff.

The Children's Center, located on Tech campus, is housed in a modern, well maintained building, and has a safe, fenced-in, outdoor play area for the children enrolled in its programs.

A low child-to-adult ratio at the Center is maintained by

employing First-Aid and CPR certified work-study students, field experience students, foster grandparents, and volunteers who make safety a priority.

In this safe environment, the Center provides the children with age-appropriate programs, which promote cultural and linguistic diversity, as well as boost the children's self-esteem.

Children are divided into three age groups at the Center to help maintain age appropriate interactions. "Jackrabbits" are children from age

2-4; "Roadrunners" are children from age 4-6; and "Jaguars" are kindergarten-aged children enrolled in the after-school program. The children in each group are encouraged to express their individual talents, and programs can be modified to help them develop their individual abilities.

In 2005, the New Mexico Tech Children's Center Endowment Fund was created to help cover the costs associated with running the Center.

The teaching staff, who are also certified to teach young children, maintain their

Continued on Page 3



THANK YOU KATHY!

Kathleen Hedges has stepped down as editor of Gold Pan. We thought it imperative to offer our congratulations to her on having completed a truly remarkable multi-year record of accomplishments, while at the helm of our alumni newsletter. We are glad to hear that she plans to continue to support the New Mexico Tech Office for Advancement and the publication of Gold Pan.

On behalf of the New Mexico Tech Alumni Association, we would also like to take this opportunity to convey our sincerest gratitude to Kathy for the great working relationships that she has initiated, established and developed between Gold Pan and Tech alumni during her long and distinguished tenure.

New Mexico Tech is fortunate to count Kathy among its longtime employees. We, her co-workers

at the Office for Advancement, are always proud to work alongside her as we take on our workday tasks and challenges.

Again, Kathy, thank you for your longstanding support of Gold Pan and the New Mexico Tech Alumni Association throughout the years. Best wishes and good luck on all your future professional endeavors.

The New Mexico Tech Office for Advancement & Alumni Association

A Note from Alumni Relations

You must be wondering "What the heck are they doing now? Why is the Gold Pan newsletter so small? Have they lost their minds?"

Don't worry; we haven't completely lost our minds. As a farewell to the Gold Pan alumni newsletter and an introduction to the Gold Pan alumni magazine we chose to print a Mini Gold Pan.

Thanks to the generosity of Mr. Bill Macey, '42, N.M. Tech alumni and friends of Tech, we can now afford to print an alumni magazine. We are very excited about this new publication.

Our goal is to create an alumni magazine that meets your needs. In order to do this, we need your input. Please take a few minutes to complete the attached survey card and drop it in the mail. This will assist as we create an alumni magazine just for you, the alumni of New Mexico Tech.

On another topic, we welcome two new members to our team: Cheryl Polanski from University of New Mexico. She has taken the position of Director of the Office for Advancement. Carol Lynn Tiegs is from Crested Butte, Colorado. She has taken the position of Marketing and Events Coordinator. We look forward to working with Cheryl and Carol.

Don't forget to complete the attached survey card and mail it to us. We need your input!

CHILDREN'S CENTER *(Continued from page 1)*

certification by attending special seminars and programs on innovative techniques for teaching small children. Teachers are then able to apply these new techniques at the Center, which improves the quality of education children receive. The endowment fund helps cover the cost of these programs.

The endowment fund also allows the Center to offer better benefits and wages to their valued teaching faculty and staff and improve employee retention. The Center is then able to better provide a consistent and safe environment for the children.

Many families have had meaningful and valuable experiences at the Children's Center. A donation to the New Mexico Tech Children's



Center Endowment Fund would allow the Center to continue offering the same, ever-improving, quality education and care to the young children of New Mexico Tech's students, faculty, and staff.

Shawna Carter

ALUMNI FROM PERU RE-VISIT TECH

Peru natives Juan C. Huyhua and Carmen Rosa Zegarra recently re-visited New Mexico

Tech's campus to reunite with their former mentors and



Juan C. Huyhua,

professors, thanking them for the training they received that led to their success.

Huyhua, a 1988 graduate of the Department of Metallurgy's Ph.D program, and Zegarra, a 1987 graduate of that same department's Master's program,

both work for Doe Run Peru, an international company based in the United States. Doe

Run specializes in the production of high-quality metal products for industrial use. Zegarra is the manager of the Research and Economic Development Department for the

company's branch in La Oroya, Peru. Until recently, Huyhua was the



Carmen Rosa Zegarra

Vice President and Manager of Operations for Doe Run Peru.

In December of 2005, Doe Run Peru announced Huyhua's promotion from Vice President and Manager of Operations to President and General Manager of Doe Run Peru. He begins his top administrative position in April of this year. "We are very grateful to the professors at New Mexico Tech," Huyhua remarked.

"They helped us learn a lot and succeed in South America, and especially in Peru. New Mexico Tech prepared me very well to perform well in my current job."

Both Huyhua and Zegarra felt that their successes are due to the quality of education they received at New Mexico Tech. After graduating, they felt extremely confident in the skills and training they received while attending Tech.

"We were definitely prepared to enter the work environment," Zegarra said. "At high-quality universities like New Mexico Tech, as a student, you have better opportunities to succeed because of the superior quality of all things offered. Once you graduate, you also continue to do better in future enterprises because of the distinct advantage of having attended a small school like New Mexico Tech,"

Shawna Carter

FORMER TECH STUDENTS START UP SUCCESSFUL NETWORKING COMPANY

Former New Mexico Tech students Jon Hill and Joshua Link teamed together to start up iniCom Networks Inc., a computer-networking company based in Albuquerque, whose focus is on networking software development and electronic discovery and forensics.

"In order to be in a position of responsibility where



Jon L. Hill
President & Chief Operating
Officer, iniCom.networks

success or failure is entirely your own doing, you inevitably have to go out on your own and start something yourself," Hill states.

iniCom was

founded in December of 1999 after Hill, Link, and a group of fellow former New Mexico Tech students decided to establish a new computing software and services business. They felt their combined computer skills would allow the company to excel and meet the growing needs of the computer industry.

"My experience at New Mexico Tech was excellent," Hill says. "The job opportunities give you hands-on opportunity to design, develop, and implement computer technologies. I would say the opportunities offered at New Mexico Tech directly supported the direction I took in computer science and in my career."

"New Mexico Tech definitely fosters the entrepreneurial spirit, and Tech



Joshua Link
VP & Chief Information Officer,
iniCom.networks

students are encouraged to try new things and to help their professors and peers with major projects or jobs," Link adds. "Coming out of school with hands-on and real-world experience dealing with real-world problems greatly increases your chances of success."

IniCom's networking software development concentrates on innovative data transfer and access programs, which set new standards for the industry, the company's website states. The software can also be customized for each customer's needs.

Electronic discovery and

forensics is a process where electronic data is identified, located, and secured for use in litigation. Any tampering of the electronic evidence, such as e-mail correspondence, can be identified, and the resultant evidence can be used in court.

IniCom recognizes the growing demand for this type of forensics, and iniCom's legal services have been sought after for their innovation in the legal industry by some of the biggest names in the computer industry, including Microsoft, RedHat, Thompson West, and many others.

"I think one of the things that allowed us to be successful was the ability to find a niche and focus on it," Link states. "There are hundreds of companies in New Mexico that provide general Information Technology services,

but by building off the foundation we created while at previous companies, we were able to target a market that is just beginning to be tapped."

Since its founding in 1999, iniCom has been growing by an average of 80 percent annually. Its estimated revenues for 2005 were \$500,000, while it is further estimated that company revenues will achieve \$1 million by the end of 2006.

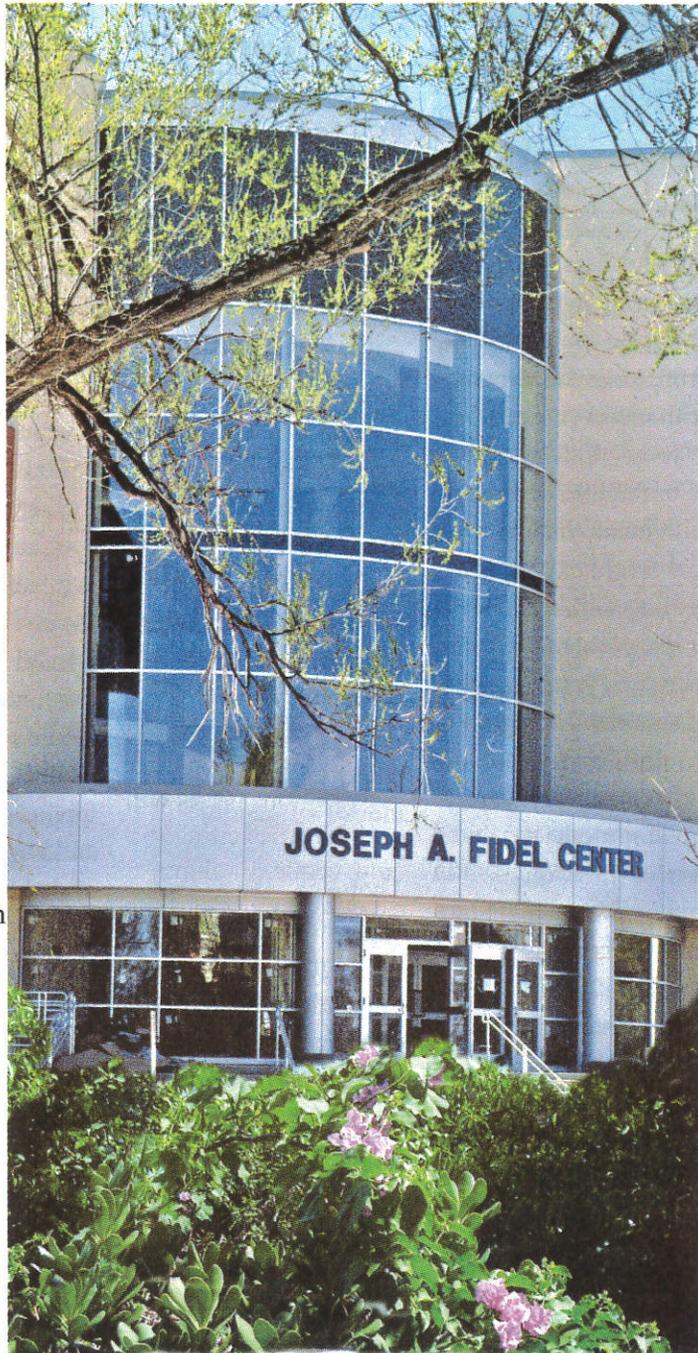
"It's taken us six long years to get to where we are now, and it's been a lot of fun, a lot of work, and has required a lot of dedication," Hill says. "I encourage any student looking to start their own venture to go into it expecting for the process to take a lot of time. Be ready to suffer some failures—both financial and otherwise—but stick to it no matter what."

Shawna Carter

“One-Stop Shopping” for New Mexico Tech Students

How’s this for a logarithm: The quality of life for New Mexico students is about to improve exponentially, from food service to student services.

Years in the planning, and months in the making, the three-story Joseph A. Fidel Student Services Center will open its doors in late spring, with an official dedication set to coincide with the university’s commencement on May 13. The new architectural landmark in the heart of the New Mexico Tech campus is dedicated to Senator Joseph A. Fidel, in



recognition of his years of support of New Mexico Tech.

The 92,000-square-foot complex will house all university functions that relate to student needs, including Admission, Registrar, Financial Aid, Auxiliary Services, Residential Life, Bookstore, Career Services, Food Services, International and Exchange Programs, Student Health Center, Counseling and Disability Services, Advising Resource Center, Advancement, Student Financial Accounts, and Cashier.

The new center “will provide our students with ‘one-stop shopping’ for taking care of all their school-related business,” said Tech President Dr. Daniel López, “as well as providing another venue for their more leisurely pursuits.”

“The new Fidel Center will be the crown jewel of the campus,” said Dr. Ricardo Maestas,

Vice President for Student and University Relations. “It is an absolutely beautiful building, and I know all of the staff are very excited and eager to move in.”

A spacious, glass-lined atrium rises to 57 feet at the Fidel Center’s main entrance, offering panoramic views of the campus. A specially designed sculpture hanging from the third-floor ceiling reflects the many aspects of scientific and engineering endeavors at New Mexico Tech. And a third-floor ballroom with observations decks will provide an exciting new venue for alumni, student and campus events. The ballroom can be divided into three smaller rooms to accommodate a variety of events.

On the first floor, campus diners will experience “a whole new concept for Tech”—a food court with grill, pasta station, pizza station,

wok station, salad bar, pastry bar, and comfort food stations, said Louise Chamberlin, Director of Auxiliary Services for New Mexico Tech.

And, there will be Starbucks coffee and assorted baked goods plus personal-size pizzas, calzones and similar fare available in the coffee shop.

“In addition, grab-and-go items, such as salads and sandwiches, will be available at both the food court and the coffee shop,” Chamberlin said.

Other Fidel Center amenities include the post office, a computer pod, a small student lounge/television room, a large game room, scattered seating areas and outside patios.

“I am very excited to have a new building where our students can make one stop and take care of almost all of their student needs,” Maestas said.

Valerie Kimble

People You Know

1950s

Richard S. Crial

(51, BS, mineral engr.) reports that he and his wife have moved to Santa Barbara, Calif., to be near their daughter. He is retired from the United States Navy and from Boeing.

R. Bruce Tippen

(59, BS, metallurgical engr.) writes, "Last year, I retired as research director of the Minerals Research Laboratory at North Carolina State University. After graduating from Tech, I received a master's in Minerals Engineering from University of Alabama and a Ph.D. in Metallurgical Engineering from the University of Minnesota. My career included work at the US Bureau of Mines, a stint as director of Minerals Research at the University of Alabama and NC State University, over 15 years of design and construction for two international engineering firms, and

plant operations with several companies. I will continue consulting in Russia for a London bank but plan on living in the Smokey Mountains of North Carolina with my wife, Dorothy, and traveling across the country visiting our 6 children and 22 grandchildren.

1960s

David Haupt (65,

BS, geology) wrote to update us on his doings since graduation. He writes, "I graduated in 1965 but lingered on for another year since most of my close friends were in the Class of '66. I cut the umbilical cord in early 1967 and went to work for Kennecott Exploration, Inc. as a geophysicist. I continued with Kennecott until January 1, 1973 with a two-year stint at the University of Wyoming as a graduate student in geothermal heat flow. Just before Christmas 1973, I fell into that great potential well known as California and have never escaped. Frankly, after nearly

33 years in California I am probably unfit or incapable of living anywhere else.

"I met my wife, Muriel, here and helped her raise two wonderful kids. Michael is now 36 and Kathy is now 42. I worked for a while as a geophysicist for Woodward-Clyde consultants in San Francisco. In 1978, I got hired on as a technician at Lawrence Livermore National Lab and was quickly advanced to senior engineering associate, an un-degreed engineering rank, solely on the basis of my outstanding knowledge of science and skill as a designer and machinist, all knowledge and skills learned at Tech.

"I had a very enjoyable career at LLNL, working for about 12 years in nuclear weapons engineering and 13 years in materials science. My weapons work was devoted to helping develop an intricate safety mechanism for warhead detonators. I had taught myself watch

and clock making and studied complicated mechanisms for many years on my own. I was quickly recognized as one of the very best people at LLNL for taking on very challenging fabrication tasks. When Star Wars program wound down in the late 1980s, I moved into materials science.

"I spent the remainder of my career at LLNL, doing research with synchrotron X-ray microtomography of bones, teeth, composite materials and foams. Most of this work was done at the Stanford Linear Accelerator Lab. It was a good switch because it allowed me to work with a brilliant young physicist; we planned and funded our own research and generated a lot of good refereed publications. I especially enjoyed this new work because it drew much more heavily on my basic science background and took me into new areas of computation and mathematics building on my education at Tech.

"I retired from LLNL on July 1, 2003, after a brief but serious illness (pulmonary embolism). I was off work for a few months and filed for full retirement, which lasted about six months. I returned to work as a consultant in synchrotron microtomography for a private company doing orthopedic research. The biggest difference is that I get paid lots more money for the time spent. I did notify everyone involved that I might work two days in succession, but would draw the line at three.

"Muriel has now retired from her teaching as well. She taught English as a Second Language for 27 years in the Livermore Adult Ed Program. We bought a very modest used motor home last summer and like to make trips to Northern California and Yosemite in it. I also use it as my fishing shack. I am into fly fishing and pontoon boats, as well as the works of J. R. R. Tolkien. Muriel is an accomplished cellist

and spends much of her spare time playing chamber music and usually sitting first chair in amateur Bay Area symphonies. With our four spoiled cats and backyard going to seed, we keep busy.

"In closing, I will confess to some ancient misdeeds. I was the person who painted Marx Brook's radar van livid magenta. I was also an unindicted co-conspirator in the great solar eclipse hoax of 1966. (It was announced to occur on the day of a full moon!)

"I think that Dr. Holmes was actually the last Tech professor I ever spoke to. I just happened to meet him in the old R&D building as Muriel and I were about to drive back to Santa Fe. He spoke mostly of how Tech had changed since my days when labs could be safely left unlocked and the student body trusted.

Rick Mayes (68, BS, physics; 68, BS, math) writes, "I have recently started a new

career as a financial planner. After 29 years in high-technology marketing and management, I have opened my own financial planning practice in Carlsbad, Calif. I have wanted to get into this field for quite a while and have been working on completing course work, registrations, and certifications. I am greatly enjoying my new field and helping my clients become more successful in reaching their goals.”

Ted Heath (69, BS, mathematics) and Linda Bodenhamer Heath have recently retired to Placitas, N. M.. Before retirement, Ted was Chief Information Officer for California State Automobile Association (AAA for Northern California, Nevada, and Utah) in San Francisco. Since retiring from a career in Information Technology in 2000, Linda has become an award-winning artist. Her work can be viewed at www.LindaHeath.com.

1970s

Alan Oscar Ehlinger (73, BS, metallurgy; 75, MS, metallurgy) brought us up-to-date on his life since Tech. “After retiring from a steel line pipe company, I started my own engineering company, I sold it, loaned the money to my son so that he could start his own business, got bored, and right now, I am in sunny Iraq working and getting bitten by the sand flies and all kinds of bugs and insects that abound in this country. In its own special way, Iraq is beautiful and the people are very nice; and I hope we can get everything pacified around here.

“I would love to hear from all my friends, in particular, from that special person. My personal e-mail is aehlinge@mancosa.com.

Jerry Reynolds (73, BS, biology) brought us up-to-date on his recent activities. He was named administrator for Lea County Solid

Waste Authority in June of 1999, and a year later, was named to head the newly created Environmental Services Department for Lea County. In August of 2005, Jerry was named to head of Emergency Services Dept. In January of 2006, he was appointed to the New Mexico Recycling and Illegal Duping Alliance. He represents Lea County on the Sureste Resource Conservation and Development Council.

Jerry adds, “I have traveled all across New Mexico on behalf of the New Mexico Environment Department, making presentations to local and tribal leaders on the economic impact of trash on local and state economies. I have provided technical assistance to New Mexico State Land Office in their public lands clean up efforts.

“I am now serving my second three year term as elder for First Presbyterian Church in Hobbs. I served a three-

year term as chairman of Board of Trustees for First Presbyterian. Currently, I serve as delegate to Presbytery for First Presbyterian of Hobbs. I have been married, now single, no children.”

Brenda Faye Andersen (75, BS, biology), wrote to update us on herself and hubby **Michael Manthai** (attended 1971): “I work at Northland Pioneer College, the Navajo County Community College District, as Dean of Science and Mathematics. The web address is www.npc.edu. I recently received recognition for 20 years of service at the college. I started as adjunct faculty in biology and have been the Science and Mathematics Division administrator since 1994. Michael is a forester with the United States Forest Service.

“Michael and I celebrated our 25th wedding anniversary in October 2004. We have three children:

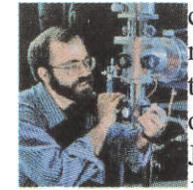
John, who is following Michael into forestry with a BS from Northern Arizona University and working for the Forest Service; David, who is studying history and political science at the University of Arizona; and Jane, a talented seventh grader.

“We have made our home in Winslow, Ariz., since 1985. Winslow is a great place to raise children and we’ve decided to stay after retirement. We are active volunteers in our community, love working with kids, and enjoying life in a small town.

“We invite all who pass along I-40 to stop and visit the city. Take in a high school game or just rest a while. Perhaps we’ll see you ‘standing on a corner.’”

Dr. Scott Sandford (1978, BS, math and physics) and **Michael Zolensky** (1977, BS, geology) are Co-Investigators on NASA’s Stardust Comet Sample Return Mission. The Stardust Mission was launched in 1999,

encountered comet Wild 2 on January 2, 2003, and returned its captured



cometary material to Earth on January 15,

2006. Both Sandford and Zolensky recently participated in the activities associated with the recovery of the Sample Return Capsule from the Utah desert where it landed at approximately 3 a.m. on January 15, 2006. This is the first return of samples to Earth from outside the Earth-Moon system.

Sandford was a member of the team that recovered the capsule from the Utah desert landing site and both

Sandford and Zolensky



attended the sample canister when it was transported to NASA’s Johnson Space Center (JSC) for opening. Both Zolensky and Sandford participated

in the removal of the samples in a special cleanroom at JSC and are leading efforts on the preliminary examinations of the returned samples. Zolensky leads the team of international scientists examining the mineralogy-petrology of the samples, while Sandford leads the team that is study the organic contents of the samples. The preliminary examination of the samples will be completed by September of this year.

Zolensky works at NASA's Johnson Space Center, where he is responsible for the NASA Curatorial Facility cleanrooms for both cosmic dust and the cometary samples. Sandford works in the Astrophysics Branch at NASA's Ames Research Center and is a co-leader of Ames' Astrochemistry Laboratory.

Dr. Nirupam Chakraborti (79, MS, metallurgy) is a professor of metallurgy

at the Indian Institute of Technology in Kharagpur. He writes, "I have recently guest edited a Genetic Algorithms issue of the Taylor and Francis Journal: Materials & Manufacturing Processes. Some details are available at the Taylor and Francis Press Release: <http://www.sciencearena.com/sciencearena/related/mmprr.pdf>."

Dr. Linda M. Stogner (79, BS, biology) brought us up-to-date on herself and her husband **Michael Stogner** (80, BS, petroleum engr.) She writes, "Michael and I celebrated our 25th wedding anniversary this past June. Michael will retire from the New Mexico Oil Conservation Division in one year. I continue to be a solo family physician in Estancia, starting my 18th year with Presbyterian Medical Services. I have also continued to serve as ship's physician -- currently

taking assignments on Lindblad's *National Geographic Endeavor*. My last assignment took me across the Drake Passage to the Antarctic peninsula, with a stop at Palmer Station. It's a rough job, but somebody has to do it. Michael gets to accompany me when he has the chance."

1980s

John Yater (82, BS, petroleum engr.; 82, BS, geology) and his wife Lisa have recently moved to Midland, Tex., from Illinois. Lisa writes that, after graduation, John went to work for Natural Gas Pipeline Co., which eventually morphed into Kinder Morgan, his current employer. John is working on tertiary recovery on the old Yates Oil Field in Iran.

Barry McCall (84, BS, mining engr.) writes, "After a brief stint at Standard Metals, Silverton, Colo., I moved onto Tooele Army Depot, Utah, providing

engineering support for a depot level truck, engineering equipment, and secondary items overhaul mission. A base realignment in 1993 shifted me into the Ammunition Equipment Directorate designing and world-wide fielding of equipment for demilitarization of ammunition.

"In 2000, I moved to the Defense Ammunition Center, McAlester, Okla., pursuing development and transition of new technologies in support of demilitarization. Recently, I've taken over as chief of the Equipment Engineering Division.

"My wife Annette and our sons Chance and Jake got a tour of the campus, Socorro and the Owl Bar last year. They enjoyed the Bureau of Mines Mineral Museum and looking into West Hall, but were disappointed in not finding evidence of something called St. Pat's Celebration. Would like to hear from any Techies. And yes, I still own a Suburban."

Diane Y. Hattler (85, BS, technical communication; 85, BS, geology) writes, "I'm in my eighth year as a counselor working with adolescent girls who are seriously emotionally abused, a far reach from my geology days in Nevada. I enjoy working with these girls -- although it is very challenging! During my free time, I travel around the world."

Eddie Justice (85, BS, petroleum engr.) writes "I am currently living in the Houston area and working in Texas City at the BP Chemicals plant as a mechanical reliability engineer. I worked as a drilling engineer for a couple of years out of college, and through the ups and down of the industry, I ended up working in refining and chemical plants, specializing in rotating equipment maintenance and repair. I have one son, Justin (age 10), who lives with his mother in Florida. I would love to hear from

anyone who attended Tech in the 1980s, and especially anyone close to the Houston area. My e-mail address is hejjustice@msn.com.

David Lee Summers (88, BS, physics) is the author of the recently published book *Vampires of the Scarlet Order*, which features vampires in various New Mexico locations, including Socorro. According to Summers' story, a vampire came to New Mexico with the Juan de Oñate expedition, hibernated on Socorro Peak (good ol' M Mountain), and emerged to munch on a passing physicist. The vampire teams up with vampires from Las Cruces, who have to cope with the fact that just about everything in the city has the official city symbol on it -- three crosses.

Summers, by coincidence, lives in Las Cruces himself, with his wife, **Kumie Wise** (87, BS, math) and their two daughters, Myranda, 9, and Verity, 3.

1990s

Martin

Brueggemann (90, BS, metallurgical engr.) reports that he and his wife Becky welcomed their first son, Jason Theodore, on Jan. 29, 2005. He has also been promoted to superintendent of Phelps Dodge's Hydrometallurgy Department in Tyrone, N.M. Martin received his MSB in 2003. He invites friends to keep in touch at mbrueggemann@phelpsdodge.com

Timothy J. Chavez

(93, BS, environmental engr.) is president of Keres Consulting, Inc., an environmental consulting firm. Keres is located at Acoma Pueblo and provides environmental assessment of old defense sites located on or near tribal lands. They have recently signed an agreement under the U.S. Small Business Administration to receive mentoring from Tecumseh Professional Associates of Albuquerque.

Tom Trujillo (93, BS, electrical engr.) writes, "I was married in March 2005 to Dr. Kimberly Carrico. The ceremony took place in Santa Clara, Calif. I have worked in Silicon Valley since finishing my MSEE at the University of California, Davis in 1996. I would love to hear from old friends at tom@kimberlyandtom.com."

Andrew Montañó (94, BS, BGS) writes, "I'm graduating from the Colorado School of Mines with my MS in Environmental Science and Engineering in May 2005! I'll be continuing to work for the Bureau of Reclamation as an aquatic biologist under the Technical Service Center. My current project involves our agency's involvement in the Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration program.

"Denver has been home for me since graduating from Tech. I bought my first house in the metro area almost three years ago.

I have been interested in starting up an alumni chapter here in the Denver area and would like to discuss this further with other interested individuals! Feel free to contact me at amontano@yahoo.com."

Thomas Schott (94, BS, mineral engr.) and **Kim (Floyd) Schott** (attended early 1990s) brought us up-to-date on their activities. Kim writes, "Immediately after graduating from Tech, Thomas was hired by ASARCO as a mining engineer in Colorado. In 1996, at our request, Thomas was transferred to Tucson as a geologist, so our son could have a much needed operation by one of the world's best heart surgeons. In 1998, we were transferred to Missouri. That same year, Thomas became a Doe Run employee when it acquired ASARCO. He's an exploration geologist now, but still doing what he did best as mine geologist: playing with

rocks and loving every minute of it.

"We celebrated our 10th anniversary last May, and have FOUR fantastic kids. The oldest, Frank-James, 8, has been top of his class since he started kindergarten. Joseph Thomas, 6, is also a straight "A" student whom the teachers fight to have in their classes. Emma Elise, 4, is the most beautiful girlie-girl in the world and a fantastic second-year gymnast. Little terror David Nicholas, 2, keeps busy staying ahead of mom and calling everyone "poopyhead."

"Thomas stays busy and has fun as Cub Scout den leader and church council president. I stay at home, keeping myself young and slim by running after the kids, an old cat (Flounder), a teenage dog (Mickey Dog), and maintaining order in our beautiful 6-bedroom 1920 house on our acre yard. We've been abundantly blessed, and hope our friends have been too."

rocks and loving every minute of it.

Mic Heynekamp (95, BS, geology; 98, MS, geology) and his wife **Molley (McFadden)** (97, BA, accounting) have moved their business, Socorro Springs Brewery, to a newer, larger location on Socorro's California Street. The popular



Socorro restaurant has added grilled meats and vegetables and pasta to their popular pizza and calzone menu, plus a new brewery and a pub.

Patrick Radabaugh (95, BS, environmental engr.) married Christy Milkey on Sept. 3, 2005 in Breckenridge, Colo. They spent a two-week honeymoon in Costa Rica, and then returned to normal engineering lives in Denver, while

anxiously awaiting the ski season. Patrick, who also holds a master's degree from Michigan State University, works for Integra Engineering, and Christy, who is a civil engineer from Vanderbilt University, works for Parson's.

Eric Recase (95, BS, electrical engr.; 95, BS, math) and **Gail (Newell) Recase** (95, BS, math) write, "We are delighted to announce the birth of our third son, Harris Canyon Reckase. Harris was born in May of 2005 at a mammoth 8 lbs, 15 oz. He joins his two older brothers Stuart, 5 years, and Sammy, almost 3. Together they make up what the Reckases refer to as 'The Three Amigos.'"

Wenona (Henslee) Ayarbe (96, BS, biology) brought us up-to-date on herself and her husband **John Ayarbe** (97, BS, environ. science; 2000, MS, hydrology). She writes, "John and I have had a busy couple of years. In October 2002,

we backpacked for three days in the Grand Canyon with some other Tech alums (Jenny and Joe Sterling and Andy Dunn). In 2003, we both raced the New Mexico Point Series for mountain bikes and won our respective classes. It was a fun way to travel around the state and burn off those breakfast burritos!

"In July 2004, we welcomed our first child, Logan Mikel. In addition to figuring out parenthood, we recently enjoyed the travails of selling and buying homes and the hassles of moving. We're mostly settled in now and are quite enjoying being parents. Logan keeps us on our toes and is the light of our lives. We'd like to hear from old friends at theayarbes@yahoo.com."

Christianne Bunnell (97, BS, business management) earned her master's degree in finance at the University of New Mexico's Anderson School of Management. She now works as

a social insurance specialist for the Social Security Administration in Gallup. She adds, "After changing careers a few times and traveling, I have finally decided to work for our US Government. I would love to hear from fellow classmates. E-mail if you get a chance at chbunnell@hotmail.com"

Susan Kay Peirick Huffstutler (98, BS, electrical engr.) reports that she and hubby **Edwin Huffstutler** (96, BS, electrical engr.) are the proud parents of Charlie, born early in 2005. The family lives in Chandler, Ariz.

Dr. Michelle Walvoord (98, MS, hydrology; 00, Ph.D., hydrology) was named the 2005 Subaru Outstanding Woman in Science at the annual Geological Society of America (GSA) meeting in Salt Lake City, Utah, on Oct. 15. Walvoord, who resides in Golden, is a research hydrologist at the USGS National Research Program in

Lakewood.

The award was based on the scientific impact of Walvoord's Ph.D. work. Her dissertation proposed a major revision of the current understanding of flow processes in desert regions where water tables are deep greater than 50 meters (164 feet).

New Mexico Tech presented her with the Langmuir Award in 2004 for the same work.

Tricia (Bynum) Bensted (attended 1997-99) writes, "I am working as a radiochemist at Waltz Mill Radiochemistry Lab/ Westinghouse Center for Nuclear Excellence. (Can you say Homer Simpson?) I am living in Pittsburgh with my son, Henry James, who is nearly 5 years old. I'd love to hear from any Techies who remember me, especially if you're living in the area! tbensted@yahoo.com.

Cassandra Marez (99, BS, biology) and **Jerome Marez** (99, BS, environmental

enr.) are pleased to announce the arrival of their son, Xavier on July 21, 2004. He joins his sister Isabel, now 3. Jerome recently took a job with HDR's Water/Wastewater group in Albuquerque and Cassandra was recently promoted from the medical device division at TCI Medical to manage quality assurance for the radiopharmaceutical division.

Ian Sutton (99, BS, environmental engr.) has joined management consulting and engineering firm R. W. Beck.s Water and Waste Resources practice in the Seattle office.

Dominico J. Vigil (99, BS, chemistry) recently earned his doctorate in biochemistry from the University of California at San Diego (UCSD). His doctoral dissertation focused on the structure and function of protein kinases, central cellular regulators which have been linked to

diseases such as cancer and diabetes. Vigil's associated research work resulted in five of his first-author papers being published in various peer-reviewed journals.

While at UCSD, Vigil was awarded a prestigious National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship. He is currently pursuing cancer research as a post-doctoral fellow at the University of North Carolina's Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center.

2000s

Mason Hutchison (00, BS, engineering mechanics) and his wife Cara are the proud parents of Eleanor Moselle, born in Albuquerque on April 21, 2004. Mason adds, "I remain at Ball Aerospace working as a research engineer. Cara now stays at home with our daughter. Eleanor seems to love to spend time in the workshop with me building RC airplanes. Contact us

at mason.must.fly@comcast.net and carart@comcast.net."

Mark Your Calendars!

New Mexico Institute of Mining & Technology Class of 1956 Golden Reunion will be held during **Reunion Weekend** on May 12 & 13, 2006.

The New Mexico Tech Alumni Association invites all New Mexico Tech's alumni to be our guests during **Reunion Weekend**, May 12 & 13, 2006. Join us as we honor the Class of 1956 during their 50th Class Reunion.

For more information, contact us at 800.428.TECH (800.428.8324), #4 or at advancement@admin.nmt.edu.



Obituaries

Dr. Christina Balk, longtime professor of geology at New



Mexico Tech, passed away on March 8, 2006. She was 98. She

was in an assisted living facility in Santa Fe.

Dr. Balk was born in Springfield, Ill. on October 8, 1907. She received her Ph.D. in paleontology from Johns Hopkins University. She taught at Mount Holyoke College in Holyoke, MA and the University of Chicago. She and her husband Robert Balk moved to Socorro, NM in 1952 where he joined the faculty at New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology. After his death in an airplane accident, Christina became a geology professor and Dean of Women. For many years, she was nearly the only woman on the faculty.

Dr. Balk lived in

Socorro for many years and was active with the Humane Society and the Animal Shelter. She retired to Santa Fe in 1993, where she has resided at Ponce de Leon Retirement Community. The family asks that memorial contributions be directed to the Balk Scholarship at New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology in Socorro, NM.

Balk was remembered by many in Socorro as a woman ahead of her time. Not only was she a scientist when that was unusual for women, but in addition, as Mary Franklin recalled, "Long before cities were recycling, Christina and my mother were collecting paper, cardboard, aluminum, and glass as a way to raise money for the shelter. Christina drove all the recycling to Albuquerque and sold it."

The family would like to thank the staff at Ponce de Leon Assisted Living Dept. and Odyssey HealthCare of Santa Fe. Cremation has taken place and private

family services are planned. Arrangements by McGee Memorial Chapel, 1320 Luisa St., Santa Fe, 983-9151.

John Joseph Bokert, a 1951 graduate of the New Mexico School of Mines, passed away on Tuesday, July 5, 2005.

He was born in Birmingham, Ala., on August 14, 1926, and spent his youth in Hobert, Ind. After serving in World War II, he moved west to attend New Mexico School of Mines, graduating with a bachelor's degree in mining engineering.

On January, 28, 1949, he married Nancy Snelling, who remained his wife for 56 years. John was proud of their five sons and their wives: Charles and Penny of Adkins, Tex.; Steven of Questa, N.M.; Jay and Debbie of Colorado Springs, Colo.; Cary and Yvette of Portsmouth, Va.; and Daniel and Marne of Denver, Colo. John loved his 18 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

John's career as a mining engineer in the uranium industry took him throughout the Southwest. He was a certified professional engineer for the states of Colorado and Oregon. He pioneered and introduced early development procedures of uranium in-situ leaching, about which he authored publications and obtained several patents. His career culminated in a position as vice president of Exploration (USA) of Occidental Mineral Corp.

John was a life-long member of the Christian Church and a member of Disabled American Veterans.

Jose Guilberto. Members of the New Mexico Tech community learned of Jose's unexpected death on March 16, 2005. He was 29 years old.

Tech President Dr. Daniel H. López said "The passing of such a young and talented researcher, who was well-liked and respected throughout

the campus community, has been a devastating blow to all of us here at New Mexico Tech, particularly the staff, faculty and students he worked with on a daily basis."

José was born in Pachuca, Mexico, the eldest of six children, and was raised in Ixmiquilpan, a region northwest of Mexico City.

Graceful and agile, Jose turned out to be a natural athlete, easily moving from soccer to basketball to volleyball. But it was the game of tennis that he excelled at best. His most visible feat was winning the Grand Prix tennis tournament in Albuquerque in a comeback victory.

José was selected in 19997 as an exchange student from the Monterrey Tec university system in Queretaro, Mexico. At the end of the exchange year, during the Summer of 1998, José elected to continue his academic training under the mentorship

of Dr. Stephen Bruder, an associate professor in the Electrical Engineering Department.

In January, 1999, Jose was accepted into New Mexico Tech's Computer Science program, and received his Master of Science degree in CS in May 2001. José continued to take courses while working in robotics research under Bruder, together with Dr. Kevin Wedeward, also of the EE Department.

One of the highlights of his academic career was in Beijing, China in the Summer of 2001 when José took first place in the Second Annual Regional Fire-Fighting Home Robot Competition.

One of José's finest gifts was his rapport and patience with children of all ages, and his work with ROBORAVE, a



program developed to show high school students that math, science and engineering are fun and challenging.

Gerald W. Irvin, a alumnus of the New Mexico School of Mines, passed away on April 3, 2005.

Jerry was well known throughout Arizona, as a consultant of mining firms, as a small mine operator in his own right, and as a knowledgeable, helpful state employee. He held a position with the Arizona Department of Mining Resources since 1965, aiding a host of prospectors, miners and mining firms. His efforts have helped prospectors find buyers for their properties and miners find a market for their ores.

Jerry's classmate, Hart C. Gleason (39, BS, mining engineering) said "Jerry was a dedicated mining man and, from all accounts, an exceptionally competent one." Born on Oct. 22, 1911 in Nebraska, Jerry began his professional

education at New Mexico School of Mines. He received a BS in general science in 1938, followed by a BS in mining engineering in 1939. He was awarded an MS in mining engineering by the University of Arizona in 1968.

Jerry worked underground as a miner in Butte, Montana, Chloride, Arizona, and at Emigrant Gap in California. He was a mining engineer at Yucca, Arizona, as underground supervisor for Magma at Superior, Arizona, as a file engineer for a construction firm at Navajo Munitions Depot in Arizona and on the Pan American Highway in Central America. He was employed as a geologist at an Arizona mercury mine, an engineer at United Verde in Jerome, and as a leasor-operator of the Elma Mine at Dos Cabezas, Arizona.

Jerry also served as mine foreman in Nicaragua and Honduras and as a mine engineer and geologist

at the San Xavier Mine in Pima County. Jerry was manager for Sunrise Mining Company at The Glove and the Paymaster Mines, and then worked as a consulting engineer prior to joining the Department of Mineral Resources in 1965, where he stayed until 1981.

Jerry was well known to more persons in mining in and about Arizona than any other individual. His knowledge of Arizona mines and miners made him an extremely valuable employee. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Dorothy, and brothers, Robert and Raymond Irvin. He is survived by his wife Frances; son Roy Irvin; brother-in-law Lyman Dyson; grandchildren and great granddaughter.

Fred Kastner, 59, died at his home in Littleton, Colorado, on March 29, 2005, after a four-year battle with cancer.

Fred was born in Ft. Snelling, Minnesota, on May 26, 1945, to James

and Patricia (Culhane) Kastner. He graduated from Roswell High School in 1963 and continued his education at New Mexico Tech, where he earned a bachelor of science degree in mathematics with a minor in physics in 1967. In 1970, he graduated from the Colorado School of Mines with a master of science degree in petroleum engineering.

His career took him to various locations in the southwestern United States and to Singapore and Cork, Ireland. He lived in Cody, Wyoming, from 1988-2001 and was an active member of St. Anthony's Catholic Church.

Fred is survived by his wife, Joan; his son, Steven (Shannon) Kastner; his daughter Kristi (Kevin) Watson; his son James Kastner; and grandchildren, brothers, and sisters.

Jean Mullins Macey, age 84, longtime supporter of New Mexico Tech, died Sunday, February 19, 2006 in the Renaissance



Center at Sunrise Assisted Living of Albuquerque. She is survived by her husband of 60 years, William B. Macey, a member of the Class of 1942. The Maceys resided in Albuquerque, N.M. and Tucson, Ariz. Jean was a graduate of Santa Fe High School; Stephens College in Columbia, Mo., and the University of New Mexico. She was a recipient of numerous awards for her outstanding service to UNM. Jean will be remembered by her many friends, the love of friends and family and for her wonderful sense of humor.

Jean Macey is also survived by her daughter, Barbara Jean Todd; son-in-law, Dr. Joseph C. Todd; granddaughter, Sarah Jean Todd of Centennial, Colo.; sister-in-law,

Doris M. Poppenberg of Williamsville, N.Y., and five nieces and nephews.

Cremation has taken place and plans are pending for a private graveside service at Santa Fe National Cemetery. Memorial donations may be made to the Alzheimer's Association, NM Chapter, 9500 Montgomery Blvd. NE, Suite 209, Albuquerque, NM 87111; the University Of Arizona Sarver Heart Center, PO Box 245046, Tucson, AZ 85724-5046; or the charity of your choice.

The family would like to thank caregivers, Eugenia Hoff, Camilla Seda and Penelope Wroski from "Right at Home" for their outstanding service during the last year of Jean's life. Also to Patti Feightner, Director of Community Relations at Sunrise, for her patience and guidance in helping with the transition of Jean from her home to assisted living. In addition, the hospice care provided by Lynnette Wallner and

her staff of "Hospice de la Luz" was especially helpful. The timing of their caregiving, empathy and love was invaluable at the time of great need for the family. French Mortuary, Inc. 7121 Wyoming Blvd. NE (505) 823-9400

Dr. Geoffrey Purcell, professor emeritus of materials and metallurgical engineering at New Mexico Tech, died on Sept. 19, 2005 at the Albuquerque home he



shared with his wife, Alice. He was 85 years old.

Purcell came to Tech in 1961 and spent the next 29 years, here until his retirement from the Department of Materials and Metallurgical Engineering in 1990.

In 1984, Purcell was honored with the university's first-ever Distinguished Teaching Award, thus setting the

benchmark for the others who would follow.

While at Tech he served as assistant academic dean and department chairman. Outside the classroom, Purcell was known for playing a mean game of tennis.

A native of Wales, Purcell always carried himself with a certain dignity and grace as befitting his European roots; and a trace of his ancestry remained forever in his speech.

"He was a wonderful human being and a wonderful teacher," said Dr. Osman Inal, longtime member of the Department of Materials Engineering. "Geoff had a pleasant personality that wouldn't quit. To this day, his former students still come by looking for him," he said.

Purcell's award as outstanding teacher was at the insistence of his students, said Inal, adding that they "demanded" that Purcell be so honored.

"Tech was his life – Tech and tennis," Inal

said. "He was a very gentle, nice man."

As a youth, Purcell attended college for a short time before joining the Royal Navy as a fighter pilot during WWII. After the war, he returned to England to finish his B.Sc. in mining at the University of Birmingham, and to work as an assistant mine manager for Britain's National Coal Board.

He earned an M.S. in mining from Pennsylvania State University where he met Alice Kipps, a graduate student in English. The couple married in 1953 while Purcell was working as overseas sales manager for Dowty Mining Equipment.

In 1959, after four years in England, Geoff and Alice returned to Penn State in State College where son Charles Kipps (Kip) Purcell was born. Two years later, the family moved to Socorro.

Kip Purcell was an outstanding multi-award winning student at Socorro High School, graduating in 1977. He

is a Harvard Law School graduate and onetime clerk for the Honorable Ruth Bader Ginsburg. Purcell is currently an attorney with the Rodey law firm, and a longtime volunteer with a high school mock trial program.

Geoffrey Purcell is survived by his widow and son; his daughter-in-law, Georgia Will; grandchildren, Dylan and Elena; and five nieces and nephews in the U.K. He was preceded in death by his brother Ron and sister-in-law Doris.

The family requests that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to the New Mexico Boys & Girls Ranch, 6209 Hendrix NE, Albuquerque, NM. 87110, or to Socorro Good Samaritan Village, P.O. Box 1279, Socorro, NM. 87801.

Lucio "Luke" Quinones, an alumnus and resident of Albuquerque, passed away at his home on Saturday, July 23, 2005, after a short illness.

Luke was born in Canchaillo, Peru on Oct. 19, 1928. He graduated from New Mexico Tech in 1957 with a degree in mining engineering. Luke worked with mining companies in Peru, Bolivia, and Chile, as well as companies in the United States. In New Mexico, he worked for the New Mexico Highway Department, where he was on the design team for the Rio Grande Gorge Bridge and worked on the construction of I-25 south of Albuquerque.

In 1992, Luke retired from the New Mexico Energy and Minerals Department, where he was a gas, mining, and dust engineer, and later served as president and board member of the Public Employees Retirement Association of New Mexico. He also served on the board of the Mine Inspectors Institute of America and the New Mexico Retiree Health Care Authority.

Luke is survived by his wife of 51 years,

Emena, three sons, one daughter, and eight grandchildren.

Martin "Tino" E. Romero, age 27, passed away suddenly on July 29, 2005, in Las Vegas, Nevada. He was a resident of Ridgecrest, Calif., and worked as an explosives engineer for



China Lake Naval Testing Center. He received

his bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from Tech in 2000, followed by a master's degree in mechanical engineering in 2003.

Tino had many hobbies and interests. At a young age, he performed magic shows for schools, libraries, private parties and DARE programs around the state of New Mexico. He was also an avid bottle collector and was a member of the New Mexico Historic Bottle Society. He was a member of the Fraternal Order of Eagles in Ridgecrest. He enjoyed

NEW MEXICO TECH

hiking, mine exploring, and explosives.

Tino was a 1995 graduate of Santa Fe High School, although much of his schooling was in Las Vegas, N.M. He always had a hug for everyone he met.

Tino is survived by his parents Martin and Vonnie Romero, sister Ashley of Rio Rancho, NM, grandmothers Ida Romero and Bernie Dodson of Tucumcari, NM and many aunts, uncles and cousins. He is survived by many, many friends, including his extremely close friends Wade Brown, Rob and Steph Brewer, and Kevin and Sarah Ford.

Josiah Waters, a 1999 graduate of New Mexico Tech, passed away in Tucson, Ariz., on Feb. 15, 2006.

Joe attended school in Klamath Falls, Ore., including Mazama High School, graduating in 1995. Following high school, Joe moved to Socorro, New Mexico where he attended the electrical engineering program at New Mexico Institute of Mining

and Technology. He graduated from there with a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering in 1999. Following that, Joe moved to Tucson, Ariz., where he had already been recruited for a position with Raytheon.

Joe loved high performance sports cars and had even modified a Subaru WRX which he liked to race. He also liked mountain biking and hiking and had even completed a jump from an airplane. Joe had also recently purchased a motorcycle was enjoying learning to ride it. He also enjoyed traveling and going to concerts.

Survivors include his sister, Charlotte Waters of Klamath Falls, Annette Pritchard of Oregon City; brother, Chad Herring of Spokane, Wash.; stepfather, Vern Howard of Klamath Falls, Ore.; and father, John Herring of Portland, Ore.

Contributions may be made to the Epilepsy Foundation of America, 4351 Garden City Drive Landover, MD 20785-7223

Timothy Kee Williams 32, passed

away Sunday, June 5, 2005. He was born February 12, 1973 in Gallup, N.M., a son of Tom C. and Dorothy Schwiedergoll Williams. He graduated from Menaul High School as a salutatorian. In 1996, he received a bachelor's degree in mathematics from New Mexico Tech. He had been accepted to the graduate program at UNM for a master's degree in mathematics. He was employed as a senior software principal engineer for Lockheed-Martin and loved his work.

His family recalled Tim as a loving husband, father, son, brother and friend. He was caring, thoughtful and gregarious. Tim was a jack of all trades who could be counted on for anything. He lived for his music and loved to compose music for his guitar and keyboard. Survivors include his wife, Yvonne; son, Marcus; daughter, Adrianna; mother, Dorothy; brother, Daniel; first wife, Alicia; and many close friends and family.

NEW MEXICO SCHOOL OF MINES

Socorro brewer signs on as golf tourney sponsor

Socorro Springs Brewery and Restaurant,



owned by Tech Alumni Mic and Molley Heynekamp, has agreed to sponsor a 45-year-old golf tournament at the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology, college officials say.

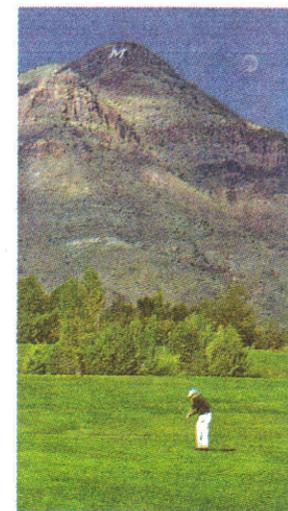
Socorro Springs Brewing Co. recently signed a three-year, \$45,000 sponsorship agreement with the school, says New Mexico Tech Head Golf Pro Russell Moore. The new "Socorro Springs Open Golf Tournament" is scheduled June 4-10 at the New Mexico Tech Golf Course.

The tourney was without a major sponsor for the first time last year, after longtime local sponsor First State Bank of

Socorro decided to halt its backing of what had been called the "Conrad Hilton Open." The tournament derived its name from Conrad Hilton, the hotelier who was born south of Socorro in the town of San Antonio.

The new Socorro Springs Open is fully sanctioned by the Sun Country PGA and the Sun Country Golf Association, Moore says.

The stroke-play golf tournament will include a senior golf professionals three-day event, a one-day program, and a professional and amateur three-day competition. The "world's longest and toughest hole in golf," the infamous "Elfego Baca Shoot," which was a mainstay of the now defunct



Hilton Open, will remain as part of the new tournament, the release notes. The "Shoot" requires that golfers traverse the rough slopes of "M" Mountain to complete play.

"We're really excited about having signed the new sponsorship agreement with Socorro Springs," Moore says, "particularly since the owners are both New Mexico Tech alumni."

New Mexico Tech and the city of Socorro, a 75-mile drive south of Albuquerque, will continue to be major sponsors of the golf tournament.

NMT Rugby Club Announces Third Overseas Tour

Photos: Bill Tafoya.

While running close twice, the New Mexico Tech Rugby Club nevertheless returned from England without a win in three matches played during their March 9-19 tour. The team was beaten by Warlingham Rugby Football Club on Saturday, March 12, Bideford RFC the following Wednesday, and the University of Bristol RFC on Saturday, March 18.

Tech's touring side, composed of twelve student and twelve alumni players, was weakened by the loss through injury of three standout players, ironically suffered in the weeks preceding the tour.

The Pygmies narrowly lost 28-22 to a young side from Warlingham, at that club's sprawling complex in the greater London area. Shrugging

off unseasonably cold temperatures encountered during their entire stay in England, the Americans went up 10-0 in the first five minutes courtesy of a penalty kick at three minutes by flyhalf Cory Micander and a 25-yard sprinting try by center Patrick Simons. Warlingham collected their wits and the two teams battled evenly until ten minutes from halftime when one of Warlingham's two centers cashed in on some fine back play for a converted try, 10-7 to Tech. But Simons, aided by Micander, struck back a minute later and Tech took a 17-7 lead into a shivering five-minute halftime.

Warlingham's management beefed up their side with some senior first team players during the break, and coupled with a seven-minute lapse in defensive concentration by Tech, Warlingham outscored NMT three

tries to one in the second half, with the Yankees score completing Simons's hat trick from an intercepted pass. The visitors, needing only one converted try - 7 points - to win, pressed close with several sustained attacks over the last 15 minutes, but Warlingham held fast to preserve their 28-22 win.



The midweek match was a floodlit affair with Bideford RFC, in that charming small town near the Atlantic in northern Devon Country. Bideford presented a strong team but the touring side had gelled too, resulting in a high-level match which entertained those brave enough to attend. Bideford led 14-6 after 40 minutes on the strength of organized forward play as Tech was held to a penalty goal and drop kick by

Micander. Bideford added a try 15 minutes into the second half while Micander connected with his third three-pointer before Tech pulled within three points with 20 minutes left on a penalty try when the home side was judged guilty of repeated offenses during the Pygmies' strongest assault on the try-line. Bideford scored again just before the final whistle to flatter themselves with a 26-16 final score.

NMT's chartered bus moved on to Somerset County to face the University of Bristol in that maritime city on the last full day of the tour. UBRFC, whose first team is in hot contention for the English national university championship, trotted

out a squad composed primarily of second team players to face the Pygmies. Such is the relative strength of English rugby that the Americans struggled for ball possession the entire match, and failed to record a single try. Tech could only manage three first-half penalty kicks from Micander while Bristol's impeccably-organized team play resulted in 19 first-half points and a parade of second-stanza scoring moves as Tech's defense was worn thin in a 44-point blitz.

Happily the Tech tour was about more than victory on the pitch. The team also toured Twickenham, the constantly-evolving national stadium, and attended a professional match in London. Stonehenge and the

Roman city of Bath provided a glimpse into England's deep history, and hosts from Bideford RFC conducted a day trip to Devon's spectacular north coast. In Bristol the tourists hobnobbed among a bustling commercial district and the players were housed in the homes of their opponents, providing a close-range view of English student life.

The Pygmies, sans their older post-graduate brothers, next see action April 1 as the Las Vegas Vatos and Santa Fe Santos both visit Socorro for a round-robin of friendly matches. Detail inquiries should be directed to NMT rugby director Dave Wheelock at 835-5854.

by Dave Wheelock, NMT Rugby Director

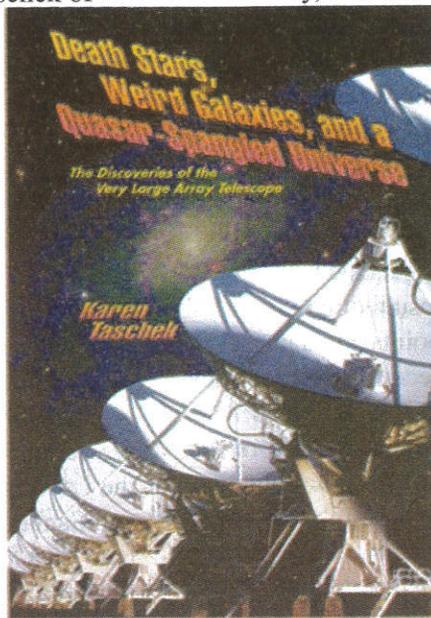


New Book About VLA Could Interest Youngsters in Science

Death Stars, Weird Galaxies, and a Quasar-Spangled Universe is a new book by Karen Taschek of Corrales about the discoveries made by scientists working at the Very Large Array telescope on the Plains of San Agustin west of Magdalena.

The hard cover, 78-page book is targeted for young adults. And it certainly should catch their eye from the eerie title and the long row of giant dish antennae on the front cover to the two final, challenging sentences: "Ten people have won the Nobel Prize in physics for work on astronomy, and of those 10, six won the prize for work

with radio telescopes. Future discoveries in radio astronomy are sure to be bizarre, extraordinary, and out



of this world."

The VLA, of course, is a radio telescope, and the first chapter is devoted to it. The last chapter anticipates the future of radio astronomy, and an "expanded" VLA. Chapter two is a rundown of other famous telescopes. The remainder of the book is a primer on the

universe. It starts with the order of the planets in our solar system, and advances through black holes, Big Bang, and the potential size of the whole ballpark.

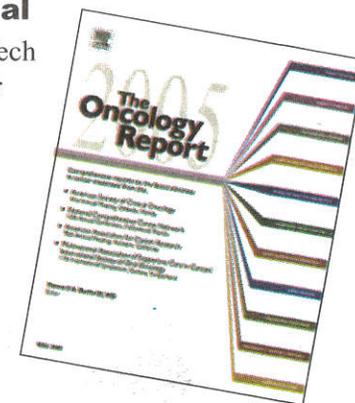
The book is being sold on bookshelves and in internet stores, and being read by kids who are potential Tech students. If it can jump-start a budding young scientist or two, it seems worthwhile. I asked Taschek about the likelihood of its becoming quickly outdated, based on new discoveries, and she conceded to that likelihood. "All the while I was writing it, (astronomers) kept finding more and more moons circling Jupiter," she said.

Taschek majored in biology and English at Franklin and Marshall College. According to a news release, her work history includes time as a copy editor for *Scientific American*, and copy chief at Random House Children's Books.

Tech Cancer Study To Be Printed In Science Journal

New Mexico Tech chemistry professor Dr. Wim Steelant announced that research on breast-cancer inhibiting properties of the yerba manza plant will be published in the May issue of the scientific journal "Oncology Reports."

Steelant said with help from Professor Michael Pullin, current research in the biomedical teaching lab at Tech will look at the anti-bacterial, anti-viral properties from



several local plants, including green chile, jalapeno, coriander seeds, juniper berries, thyme and the creosote bush.

Nine undergraduate and graduate students helped conduct the research.

She has written 17 books, mostly fiction, 12 about horses, including a series on thoroughbreds. Most are aimed at a young adult audience, and her earlier books are under the name Karen Bentley. She is the author of another non-fiction book, *The Uners*, about Albuquerque's auto racing family. She said she wrote both the Unser and VLA books because she has a young son. "Most authors of children's books are women, and they mostly write about subjects that are of interest to girls," Taschek says.

Death Stars, Weird Galaxies, and a Quasar-Spangled Universe has a cover price of \$17.95, but you can find it on the internet for far less.

For young people who have an incurable interest, as I do, for exploration and wonder about deep space and deep time, it may well be worth the read.

Ben Moffett



John Larson/Mountain Mail
Tech students and professors who contributed to the study: (front, from left) Eerik Elias, Marcia Ogasawara, Aaron Jenkins, Severine Vanslambrouk, Anber Daniels, and Joann Baker. Back (from left) Michael J. Agustin, Dr. Michael Pullin, Dr. Wim Steelant, and Glen Adkins.

NM Tech Names Top Engineering Students

New Mexico Tech has named its top engineering students of 2006. Korrie E. Collins, a senior majoring



in mechanical engineering was named "Engineering Student of the Year." Two runners-up were named: Antonio D. Chavarria, an environmental engineering major, and Nathan Goulding, a computer science and electrical engineering major.

Korrie Collins is a graduate of Albuquerque's Eldorado High School and the daughter of Michael and Janet Collins of Albuquerque.

Collins currently attends the university on numerous prestigious scholarships, including the New Mexico Tech Silver Scholarship, the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) New Mexico Section Scholarship, the Chevron Scholarship, and the New Mexico Lottery Success Scholarship.

In addition to studies and related class work, Collins serves as the student representative at mechanical engineering faculty meetings and has developed a student forum for New Mexico Tech's Department of Mechanical Engineering.

Over the past few years, she also has helped design and build four Rube Goldberg devices as team projects entered in the university's annual Engineering Weekend. Three of those devices have gone on to win first

place at the associated design competitions.

When she's not busy attending classes, studying, or involved in engineering design projects at New Mexico Tech, Collins says she enjoys swimming and competing in water polo.

Collins also is an active volunteer at Albuquerque's Roadrunner Food Bank and Project Share.

Collins currently serves as president of the New Mexico Tech chapter of ASME and is a member of the Tau Beta Pi national engineering honor society.

Antonio D. Chavarria, a graduate of Gallup High School, is now concurrently enrolled as both a senior and graduate student majoring in environmental engineering. He is the son of Julio and Maria Chavarria of Gallup.

In previous semesters, Chavarria has consistently

been named to the university's prestigious Academic Honor Roll for his demonstrated academic excellence in the classroom.



In addition to his studies and related class work, Chavarria currently works as a research assistant with New Mexico Tech environmental engineering professor Frank Huang on an ongoing research project on enzymatic treatment of bio-film membrane fouling on reverse osmosis systems.

When he's not busy attending classes, studying, or conducting research at New Mexico Tech, Chavarria says he

enjoys singing and strumming his guitar, mountain biking, and playing soccer.

Chavarria also currently serves as the vice president of the Tech Environmental Engineering Club and is a member of the local chapter of the Tau Beta Pi national engineering honor society.

Nathan R. Goulding, a graduate of Albuquerque's La Cueva High School, is the son of Robert and Barbara Goulding of Albuquerque.

In previous years, Goulding was named a recipient of the university's prestigious Macey Scholarship and Student Appreciation Award, and was designated a New Mexico Tech Scholar for his demonstrated academic excellence in the classroom.

In addition to his studies and related class work, Goulding currently works as a peer facilitator for New Mexico Tech's Advising Resource

Center and has previously worked for the Institute for Complex Additive Systems Analysis (ICASA), a specialized research division of the university.

When he's not busy attending classes, studying, or conducting research at New Mexico Tech, Goulding says he enjoys rock climbing or mountain biking. "I love it here," he says.

Goulding also serves as chairperson for the university's student chapter of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE) and is president of the local chapter of the Tau Beta Pi national engineering honor society.



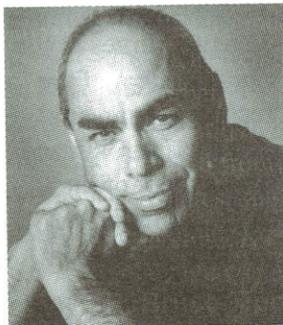
Internationally acclaimed poet to read works at Tech

Internationally acclaimed poet Jimmy Santiago Baca read selected pieces from his award-winning works on April 18 at the Jean Macey Music Annex on the New Mexico Tech campus.

The poetry reading, book signing by and reception for Baca, was co-sponsored by the New Mexico Tech Department of Humanities and the Office for Academic Affairs in celebration of National Poetry Month, and as part of the humanities department's ongoing Visiting Poet Series.

Baca, who holds a bachelor's of arts degree in English and a doctorate in literature

from the University of New Mexico, was born in New Mexico of Hispanic and Apache descent.



After a tumultuous childhood, Baca found himself serving five years in a maximum security prison at the age of 21. During his confinement, he taught himself to read and write, which instilled in him an unbridled passion for writing poetry—a turning point in his life.

For more than 20 years, Baca has had his novels, film scripts, and poems published to great critical acclaim, all the while garnering awards and honors, such as the Pushcart Prize, the American Book Award, the National Poetry Award, the International Hispanic Heritage Award, and, for his memoir, "A Place to Stand," the prestigious International Award.

Baca previously has been named to serve as the Wallace Stevens Endowed Chair at Yale University, the University of California-Berkeley Regents Chair, and the Endowed Hubert Chair at Colorado College, in recognition of his exceptional body of work.

George Zamora



**New Mexico Institute
of Mining and Technology
801 Leroy Place
Socorro, NM 87801**

Address Service Requested

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 1893
Albuquerque, NM