

Alumni Activities

It's been a fast-paced start to alumni association activities for 2007, and there's lots more to come.

Alumni update and brainstorming sessions on January 16 and February 20 in Socorro have resulted in new standing committees that are already making plans for Annual Fund Campaign, Distinguished Alumni Award, 49ers and Reunions. A Bylaws task force has submitted updated bylaws that should streamline the association and its board for easier action, and a dedicated and diverse group of new directors are onboard.

On February 8, Santa Fe, Taos and Los Alamos area alumni met incoming member of the Board of Regents Abe Silver at a reception in Santa Fe. John Dowdle (60) and his wife, Ann, have graciously offered their Santa Fe home for a summer event. Watch for more details.



Sallie Smith with son, Dean

And work is underway to form a chapter in the area.

A number of alumni joined New Mexico Tech faculty and staff, and Socorro friends of Dr. Clay T.

and Sallie Smith for a February 9 farewell to Sallie and kick-off to Clay T. and Sallie Smith Student Fund.

Colorado alumni enjoyed a February 27 reception at the Rock Bottom Brewery on Denver's 16th Street Mall. The event coincided with the Society of Mineral Engineers conference in Denver. And there are efforts underway to form an active Denver alumni chapter.

The Society of Petroleum Engineers Student Chapter hopes to see a good alumni turnout for the annual Langdon Taylor Dinner on Sunday, April 22. For information, contact Karen Balch at 505.835.5412 or kmbalch@nmt.edu.

If you're a member of the Class of 1957 or earlier, or the Classes of 1972 to 1982, make plans to attend the Golden and Silver reunions the weekend of May 12-13. This coincides with New Mexico Tech's Commencement, and we hope you'll be walking in the Commencement procession. Please contact Carol Lynn Tiegs at 505.835.5292 or ctiegs@admin.nmt.edu with your RSVP and size for cap and gown.

You'll want to be in Socorro for 49ers weekend, October 19-21. Celebrate at The Cap with the Vigilante Band, on the rugby field for the traditional game, and how about an alumni float in this year's 49ers parade. (Go to www.thevigilanteband.com/socorro.htm for photos of the Vigilantes as the 2006 49ers parade grand marshals.) The Society of Petroleum Engineers Student Chapter welcomes players and sponsors in its growing annual 49ers Gold Rush Golf Tournament.

The 49ers/Reunion Planning Committee –Luz Barreras (91) John Dowdle, Linda Gonzales (65) Vicki Gonzales, Judy Lovelace (60), Don McKelvey (60) and Cat O'Connor (96) – welcome your ideas and look forward to hearing that you'll be here. Stay tuned for news of additional 49ers activities.

California-area alumni, please join us in Anaheim on November 13 for an alumni reception in conjunction with the annual SPE conference there.

Still in the planning stages are a summer event in Albuquerque, and regional alumni events in the Houston, Dallas and Phoenix areas.

And for travelers, the new Tech Travels series is laying plans for a Sea World Caribbean Cruise in Summer 2008, and a Summer 2008 Peruvian Expedition led by Dr. William Chavez (76, 77), now a professor in Tech's Mineral Engineering Department. We'll be offering an opportunity to view the solar eclipse up close in 2009 with a cruise off the coast of Japan, and a Nile Cruise is the planned highlight of 2010.

Watch for more details on these and other events at the newly updated alumni website at http://www.nmt.edu/alum_fr/index.htm.

Herkenhoff Endowment Seeks Matching Funds for Professorship

The Lillian Herkenhoff Memorial Fund has been established, using funds provided by the late Earl Herkenhoff.

Earl Herkenhoff, from the New Mexico School of Mines Class of 1936, was the quintessential "Miner's Miner." As an international mining and metallurgical consultant with more than 60 years of experience in the industry, Earl was named a Distinguished Member of the American Institute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers.

At his death in 2002, Earl left funds to establish an



endowed professorship in Mineral Engineering named after his mother, Lillian. Lillian was supervisor of the campus dining and residence halls from 1920 to 1933 and again from 1941 until her retirement in 1950. She and her four children lived in an apartment in the basement of old Driscoll Hall, where she baked homemade pies for

her "boys," as she called the students of the School of Mines. They, in turn, addressed her as "Mom."

The Herkenhoff name became closely tied to the New Mexico School of Mines. The three Herkenhoff sons, Gordon, Walter, and Earl, all graduated from New Mexico School of Mines with bachelor's degrees in mining engineering. Their sister, Harriet, served for nine years as secretary to the president under the administration of Edgar H. Wells, before marrying a student.

After graduation, Earl quickly made a name for himself in mining and milling operations throughout the world. He is remembered as one who could look at a project's flowsheet and immediately spot fatal flaws or trouble areas – as one who could get to the heart of the problem.

Earl designated the funds that he left to benefit the Department of Mineral Engineering and the Mineral Museum. In particular, he provided scholarships, which have already supported six graduate and three undergraduate students in mineral engineering. He also left funds for the Mineral Museum to buy specimens.

But the bulk of his gift to New Mexico Tech was designated for the establishment of an endowed professorship in mineral engineering. According to Navid Mojtabai, chair of the department, "We want to keep the principal intact, and, in fact, allow it to grow. To do this, we need to generate additional monies to fund the chair. Therefore, we have decided to use the funds to match other gifts. If the donor works for a company that also matches gifts, then the fund will grow even faster."

Earl Herkenhoff's fund is administered by his niece, Gay Herkenhoff Dwyre. According to Cheryl Pulaski, Director for Advancement, "Gay has been a wonderful representative for her uncle's wishes."

For information on contributing to the Lillian Herkenhoff Memorial Fund, please contact Cheryl Pulaski, Director for Advancement, 505.835.5525 or e-mail cpulaski@admin.nmt.edu.

License Plates

At last! New Mexico Tech alumni and other friends no longer have to envy alums of UNM and NMSU for their special license plates honoring their alma maters. A New Mexico Tech plate, featuring M Mountain, will be available this spring. To get your very own, visit your local Motor Vehicle Division in Socorro, Albuquerque, Rio Rancho, Santa Fe, Los Alamos, Farmington, Carlsbad, Roswell, Hobbs, or Las Cruces. Or order one on the web from <http://www.tax.state.nm.us/pubs/specplat.htm>.

The plates cost \$37 per year, of which \$25 goes to New Mexico Tech.

Alumni Help Make Best President's Golf Tournament

The 12th Annual President's Golf Tournament saw its biggest turnout ever with 32 teams signed up for both the morning and afternoon flights. The September 2006 event raised more than \$125,000 to provide help to Tech students who encounter financial difficulties during the course of their college careers.

New Mexico Tech alumni were well represented, including Robert Balch (MS Geop 93, Ph.D. Geop 97), Steven Ball (BS MCEN 02, MS EngM 04), Luz Barreras (BS TC 91), Jim Hunt (BS MCEN 06), Eric Hunter (BS GenM 95), Manuel Marquez (BS Gen 03), Mark Martin (MS MicroE 02), Jason Metzger (MS EngM 03), Brandon Pease (BS ME 99), Michael Provenza (BS MinE 75), Van Romero (BS Phys 77, MS Phys 79), Mike Stanley (BS MinE 94), Bill Tafoya (BS, Geol 83), Steve Welch (BS 92) and George Whitman (BS Petr 52).

The Thyssen Family Amigo team, second place winners in the afternoon flight included alums Bennie Naranjo (BS METE 83) and Loretta Tobin (Assoc GS 05).

Alumni and their firms were among the Regents, Amigo and team sponsors helping to raise revenue for the event to record levels.

The 2007 President's Golf Tournament is scheduled for September 14. For information, contact Carol Lynn Tiegs at 505.835.5292 or e-mail ctiegs@admin.nmt.edu.



Support Gold Pan

We received rave reviews on the new design of our Fall 2006 issue of *Gold Pan*.

Gold Pan now reaches nearly 10,000 alumni and friends of New Mexico Tech, people with an active interest in fellow alumni, in on-campus activities, in what's available in Socorro, and in New Mexico Tech's partners. And we'd like to have *Gold Pan* in your hands three or four times per year to keep you really up-to-date.

Unfortunately, sending a magazine of that quality to so many people is a pricey proposition. The Alumni Association budget is largely dependent on alumni dues and contributions from generous friends.

That's why you're seeing a different look to this issue of *Gold Pan*. And that's why we're asking you to be sure to send us your alumni association dues for 2007/2008. Dues are just \$30 per year (or \$50 per alumni couple). For just \$200 (\$350 per alumni couple) you can purchase a lifetime membership.

We also offer the opportunity for your company to support of New Mexico Tech through an ad in *Gold Pan*. For complete information on advertising rates and placement please contact Carol Lynn Tiegs at 505.835.5292 or ctiegs@admin.nmt.edu, or Cheryl Pulaski at 505.835.6769 or cpulaski@admin.nmt.edu.

As always, thank you for your strong support.



People You Know

1970s

Dr. Bruce Ashcroft (72, BGS) writes, "I enjoyed three wonderful years at Tech, 1969-1972, graduating with a BGS. I fell in love with Socorro and wrote about its history off and on for a dozen years, culminating in my book, *"The Territorial History of Socorro."*

"Anyway, I've been a civilian historian working for the Air Force since 1987, and I recently had the opportunity to co-author a study, Operation Dragon Comeback, about the effects of Hurricane Katrina on our base in Biloxi, Mississippi, and the command's response."

Dr. John Alderete (73, BS, math; 74, BS, biology) has been named Outstanding Latino in Higher Education by the American Association of Hispanics in Higher Education, Inc. Alderete is a professor of microbiology at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio. He is the recipient of many awards, including New Mexico Tech's Distinguished Alumnus Award.

Debra (Houston) Yoshimura (75, BS, environmental psychology) writes, "I relocated to Colorado Springs in June 2006 to accept a position with the U.S. Olympic Committee. I am responsible for audits of the USOC and the national governing bodies for the various Olympic sports. This is the best job I've ever had. It is a pleasure to work for an organization with so much passion for its purpose. My daughters (Mariko, 17, and Kiri, 15) and I are enjoying life in 'the Springs.'"

1980s

Dr. Kelly Lee (80, BS, metallurgical engr.) writes, "My husband, Lee Hicks, daughter Cary, and I relocated to the edge of 'green country,' to Ponca City, Okla. We enjoy the green after all those years in Alaska. Look forward to hearing from all those others from the late 70s and early 80s."

Gary Gorozyca (83, BS, petroleum engr.) writes, "I am an EBay Powerseller, and I am also involved in rock band promotion and concert promotion. I also work as a volunteer for the Veterans History Project on an oral history project." He says friends should feel free to contact him about any of these at garygor1960@comcast.net.

Kevin H. Cook (86, MS, geology) and his wife Sylveen Robinson-Cook (86, MS, geology) are owners of Royal Scepter Gems and Minerals in Silver City, N.M. Kevin has started a newspaper column in the Silver City Sun-News called "Rockin' around Grant County," in which he writes about geology, mining, mineral and fossil collecting, gemology, and lapidary. Kevin writes, "We have never been happier and love talking rocks with folks visiting the shop and the area." They have two sons, Colin and Brody.

Mark Tucker (87, BS, geophysics) writes that he and his wife Alicia "now have five kids; Harrison, 9; Zabrina, 8; Hilton, 2; and Bijou (born June 2006); and Cinnamon the lab,

who is worse than the rest!" Mark works for g-Nostics Ltd. in the UK and the family lives in Stow-in-the-Wold.

Mark says "Hope everyone is well. We went back to Taos skiing this year for the first time in almost 20 years."

Dr. Travis Wade (87, BS) received a Ph.D. in chemistry from UNM in 1995. He is currently doing research in nanotechnology at the Ecole Polytechnique in Paris, France.

Cindy Sisson (88, BS, physics) is the chair of the Chemistry and Physics department at Louisiana State University at Shreveport. Her husband **Paul Sisson** (87, BS, math; 87, BS, physics) is dean of the College of Sciences at the same university. He recently had a show of his mathematical art; there is an article at <http://www.ams.org/mathmedial/mathdigest/md-200606-toc.html>. Paul is also the author of two textbooks: College Algebra, coming out in a second edition soon, and Per-Calculus (2006).

Barbara (Marez) Palmer (88, BS, petroleum engr.) writes, "I have recently moved from Minneapolis to Sugar Land, Tex., to change jobs. I now work for Sunoco Logistics as their Western Area Integrity and Compliance Manager. My daughter is now 16 and wanting to drive and my son turned 10. Where does time go?!?! It seems like yesterday that I was at NMT."

Linda Linden (89, MST) writes, "I work as an environmental scientist for S.M. Stoller Corporation." She lives in Henderson, Nev.

1990s

Kathryn Ford (90, BS, biology) writes, "I am actually helping to teach new medical technologists (clinical laboratory professionals) for the medical profession. I have been at this position for 2.5 years and thoroughly enjoy education, more so than actually working in clinical labs."

Tom Jones (92, BS, physics and basic sciences) is director of engineering at Apex Digital Systems (<http://www.apexds.com>), a consulting and software development company in Silver Spring, Maryland, creating applications for large non-profit, government, and private clients. Tom lives in Greenbelt, Maryland.

In 2005, Tom was awarded the title of Kinetic Seer by the World Championship Kinetic Sculpture Race, in which human powered amphibious works of art race from Arcata to Ferndale, California. You can read more on Tom's website <http://KineticBaltimore.com>, and his serving on the pit crew of fellow alumnus Dave Hershberger's entry "Unwheedly", a human-powered sculpture with two 9-foot wheels. Tom has also published the Tech campus exploits of Stealth Force Beta on his website at <http://www.spril.com>.

Michael Portereiko (92, BS, biology) writes that he and his wife welcomed a son, Nicholas, in October 2005. They also have a daughter, Ann, who is now 4. The family has moved to Thousand Oaks, Calif., where Michael works for Ceres, Inc., a plant biotechnology company.

Tom Trujillo (93, BS, electrical engr.) writes, "My wife

Kimberly and I are now proud parents of a baby boy, Ryan, born in August 2006. He is our first child. We still live in the San Francisco Bay Area. I am a senior hardware design engineer at Applied Signal Technology in Sunnyvale, Calif."

Darwin (Marjorie) Ward (93, BS, physics) writes, "On May 18, 2006, after a year of trying it on for size, I legally changed my first name from Marjorie to Darwin. Fellow Tech alums were instrumental in helping me pick my new name at the wedding rehearsal dinner for techie Matt 'Catbut' Goolsby. Please address all future messages to 'Dar' or 'Darwin' and you can write me at mbignmistake@yahoo.com.

"FYI, I'm still living the good life in Madison, Wisconsin working for the Bicycle Federation of Wisconsin while my girlie of 10 years, Tracy, is living in Indiana and working as a veterinarian."

Rebecca Knight (96, BS, geophysics) writes, "I'm teaching science at The Academy, a private school in Appleton, Wisc. I am in charge of developing the primary program (elementary through 9th grade) with Cambridge University. We're the first Cambridge Primary Science program in the U.S. And I absolutely love it! Working with the little tykes is a blast."

Rico Espindola (96, BS, physics) and Teresa Espindola (97, BS, biology) are happy to report that they have a new son, Joseph Matthias, who was born on April 27, 2005. Their 3-year-old daughter, Angelina, is a proud violinist and dancer.

The family just moved into the dream home they have been building during the last 15 months. It is in the mountains on a 10-acre lot with views all around, including of the Sandia Peak ski area. Rico is a senior system engineer with ASRC Aerospace, and Teresa is a proud stay-at-home mom running a busy home-based business. She writes, "Life couldn't be better; we have made all our dreams come true!"

Rico and Teresa would love to hear from old friends. teresaespidola@msn.com.

Angela (Miller) Murrell (97, BS, basic sciences) writes, "After working at New Mexico State University in Las Cruces from January 2003 through May 2005, I moved out to San Diego, Calif. I now work as the outreach and instruction librarian in one of the premier biomedical research institutes in the world. I've gone full circle, from a library student worker in the Tech library back in 1996, to genetics researcher from 1997-2000 and finally found the perfect fit as a librarian at the Scripps Research Institute. Thanks to all the Tech faculty and my friends. I'd love to hear from old friends. Email me at [wvdove17 at yahoo](mailto:wvdove17@yahoo)."

Ben Sittler (1997) and his partner Becca Middleton welcomed Iris Eleanor Wiley Sittler on Nov. 28, 2006. Ben has been employed as a software engineer for

(Continued on page 3)

From the President

Dear Alumni, Friends, and Supporters of New Mexico Tech:

In my capacity as president of New Mexico Tech, it gives me great pride and pleasure to report to you that our university alumni base is now at an all-time high. Achieving this landmark accomplishment is directly attributed, in no small measure, to your active participation and generous support. Thank you.

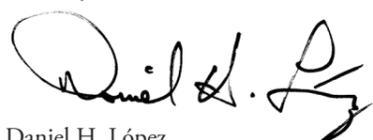
As you may know, a substantial growth in numbers of New Mexico Tech alumni occurred during the 1970s, when we added 1,317 Tech graduates to our alumni rolls. Since then, the growth has continued by leaps and bounds. For instance, in the relatively brief time since our last New Mexico Tech Alumni Directory was published in 1999, 1,400 more Tech graduates have joined the school's alumni rank. Just this past year, during Commencement 2006, the largest class ever to graduate from New Mexico Tech added 309 more alumni.

Expanding our base of support is of crucial importance to New Mexico Tech, as more and more public universities reach out to private sources for support. With an increased capacity for support from our burgeoning alumni base, we now look forward to the entire university—faculty, students, staff, programs, and facilities—attaining even higher levels of educational excellence, research capability, and national renown.

Given that our first formal attempt at mounting a major fundraising campaign back in 2001 met with unqualified success, it has further laid the foundation for an unprecedented period of growth and development at New Mexico Tech. In the months and years ahead, we will continue to work to identify and address a host of even more complex and pressing concerns for the university.

Once again, thank you for your unwavering commitment and staunch support of your alma mater. It is because of forward-thinking individuals such as yourself that the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology can aspire to be counted among the best public research universities in the nation.

Sincerely,



Daniel H. López
President

Alumni Survey for Gold Pan

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Preferred contact media _____

Occupation: _____

Will you volunteer?

- Activities in your area
 National Association activities
 New Mexico Tech recruiting
 You name it _____

I would be interested in an alumni chapter in my area. Yes No

Would you prefer that reunions be held:

By class year By 5-year groupings before and after my graduation year

By decade By field of study

What activities would you like to see at a class reunion/49ers?

- pre-registration list E-mail addresses of pre-registrants (limited access)
 BBQ Area tours
 What else? _____

What benefits are important for you to receive from your alumni association? _____

Return your survey and enter a drawing for a New Mexico Tech sweatshirt (12 lucky winners).

Free gift when you send your Alumni Association dues

Annual Alumni Association Dues enclosed (\$30)

Lifetime membership dues enclosed (\$200/individual or \$350/alumni couple)

Please charge \$ _____ to my Visa MasterCard

Account #: _____ Exp. Date: _____

People You Know (Continued)

KnowNow, Apple, and more recently for bit torrent. Becca, a accomplished juggler, recently was awarded her doctorate from UC Berkeley in microbiology with a research focus on soil environments. The family lives in El Cerrito, Calif.

Dr. David Sivils (97, Ph.D., geology) writes "My wife, Sherry, and I moved from Midland, Texas, to Plano, Texas, in 2004. I recently took a position as senior geologist with Wynn Crosby, moving from EnCana Oil & Gas (USA)."

Robin (Carstensen) Jones (98, BS, envr. engr.) and her husband Doug Jones (98, BS, gen. engr.) are pleased to announce the birth of their first child, a boy, Aiden Douglas Jones. He was born on April 1, 2006. Robin writes, "He weighed 8 lbs., 14 oz. He is my April fool and the light of my life." The Joneses live in Albuquerque.

Marc Ahlen (99, BS, engr. mechanics) sent an update on himself and wife Danise. He writes, "Our daughter Paige Katelyn was born April 16, 2003. I was hired as contractor performing mechanical design for air and space radar and optical systems at Sandia Labs in April, 2004 and moved to Albuquerque at the same time. I also began working on a master's in mechanical engineering at UNM part time in January 2005."

Martin Schluep (99, BS, envr. engr.; 00, MS, envr. engr.) writes, "**Rachelle Schluep-Rourke** (00, MS, geochemistry) and I met at Tech during grad school. After we both graduated in 2000, we moved to Houston. Rachelle worked as a geologist at TetraTech and I worked as an environmental engineer at the URS Houston office in their air quality group. We got married in October 2003 and in January 2005, we both transferred our jobs internally and moved back to Albuquerque. I joined Kleinfelder in March 2006 to start and head their air quality group."

2000s

Aaron Saenz (00, BS, technical communication) is a medical office clerk instructor at East Los Angeles Occupational Center. He is also president of San Gabriel Valley Pride, a non-profit organization that produces a GLBT pride event and resource fair for the Greater San Gabriel Valley area of Los Angeles.

Lisa Edwards (02, BS, math and psychology) graduated from Southern California College of Optometry and is now doing a residency in pediatrics and visual therapy.

Diane Agnew (03, BS, geology; 06, MS, hydrology) and **Peter Agnew** (04, BS, computer science; 04, BS, electrical engr.) were married on June 16, 2006 in Santa Fe. They are currently living in Albuquerque. Peter is a software engineer and network administrator for Acme Worldwide Enterprises.



SOCORRO SPRINGS OPEN

The New Mexico Tech Golf Course is proud to announce the 2nd Annual **Socorro Springs Open** will be held from **June 3-9**, sponsored by the Socorro Springs Brew Pub. Interested parties can contact the Tech Golf Shop at 505.835.5335 for more information, or e-mail rmoore@nmt.edu.

Chartwells
Eat · Learn · Live

New Mexico Tech
801 Leroy Place
Socorro, NM 87801
(505) 835-6710

Passings

Longer obituaries of the following members of the New Mexico Tech community are posted online at the alumni website http://www.nmt.edu/alum_fr/index.htm.

Eugene O'Connor, (1953) world traveler, metallurgist, and longtime supporter of New Mexico Tech, passed away on July 31, 2006.

Following a long career with Lockheed Aerospace, Gene and Millie returned to Socorro in 1993.

Gene was a longtime supporter of New Mexico Tech, having established the Alumni Scholarship Fund. The family requests that donations be made to this fund. Donations may be sent to: Office for Advancement, New Mexico Tech, 801 Leroy Place, Socorro, N.M., 87801. In the "memo" line, please write "Eugene O'Connor."

Marvin H. Wilkening, a longtime member of the physics faculty at New Mexico Tech and a veteran of the Manhattan Project, passed away on Sept. 24, 2006, at Socorro Good Samaritan Village, which he helped establish.

Gifts in his memory may be made to the Marvin H. Wilkening Endowed Faculty Fund at New Mexico Tech, which supports a chair in physics.

Richard W. Baxter, Jr. age 53, passed away on February 3, 2007, from cancer. Baxter had three degrees from New Mexico Tech: bachelor's degrees in math (1977) and computer science (1981), followed by a master's degree in computer science (1985).

Waldemere "Wally" Bejnar died peacefully in his home in Socorro on Friday, February 9, 2007. Bejnar was a geologist who taught at Tech in the early 1950s, had an active career in consulting and teaching, and moved back to Socorro in 1979 and was active in the community.

Glenn Roy Brueland passed away on January 9, 2006, in Los Angeles. He received two degrees in physics from New Mexico Tech: a bachelor's degree (1967) and a master's degree (1969). Following graduation, he served as an officer in the United States Navy, then had an active career in aerospace engineering.

Russell Judy Davis III, age 78, died on March 15, 2006. He was a 1952 graduate in petroleum engineering and had a long and successful career as a petroleum engineer.

James T. Everheart passed away in January 2007. He graduated in 1956 with two bachelor's degrees, one in mining engineering and one in geology.

Elwood "Woody" Eutermoser passed away on May 20, 2005. He received his bachelor's degree in metallurgical engineering in 1950, and was a longtime employee of Alcoa.

Juan "Artie" Gallegos passed away on February 7, 2007 in Phoenix. He graduated from New Mexico Tech with a bachelor of arts degree in history in 1974.

Ralph Marshall McGehee, professor emeritus of computer science and research mathematician emeritus, passed

away on Aug. 2, 2005. He taught at New Mexico Tech from 1962 to 1984.

Paul D. Merillat passed away on May 12, 2006, at the age of 56. Paul earned two computer science degrees at New Mexico Tech: a bachelor's (1972) and a master's (1975). He was director of Information Systems Development Center 9500 at Sandia National Labs, where he retired in 2003.

Earl "Steele" McIntyre, a 1941 graduate in mining engineering, passed away on Sept. 29, 2006.

Betty Lou Rhodes, "The Duchess", wife of Harlan N. "Dusty" Rhodes (Petroleum, 1953), passed away.

New Mexico Tech's Magdalena Ridge Observatory Officially Opens

Braving a chilly October wind, a crowd of about 200 gathered last fall atop the 10,800-foot-high Magdalena Mountains in south-central New Mexico to officially open New Mexico Tech's Magdalena Ridge Observatory (MRO)—a new \$50 million optical observatory and astronomy research facility.



The federally funded MRO project is a state-of-the-art optical observatory that consists of two distinct instruments—a single 2.4-meter-diameter telescope and a moveable array of up to ten 1.4-meter-diameter telescopes linked together to form a single optical interferometer.

Initial research being planned for the MRO 2.4-meter telescope will be more along the lines of "classical astronomy," MRO scientists say, starting with a study of small bodies in our own Solar System, particularly near-Earth objects such as asteroids.

During the day, which is usually down time for optical telescopes, MRO's big telescope will be used by the U.S. Department of Defense to track satellites and occasional missile tests conducted at White Sands Missile Range.

"Magdalena Ridge Observatory also has a strong component in its mission to support and enhance education and public outreach in New Mexico," says Van Romero, vice president for research and economic development at New Mexico Tech.

MRO's linked array of smaller telescopes is scheduled to become operational in 2009.

George Zamora

Porphyry Support Sought

Porphyry, the New Mexico Tech yearbook, will be back in print this year thanks to the staff of *Paydirt*, the campus newspaper. "Our goal is to do a good yearbook this year, and get some feedback from students, faculty and staff," said *Paydirt* editor Roger Renteria. "Next year, we hope to make yearbook production a class in the Community College."

Plans are to sell the yearbook at a low cost to attempt to cover production costs. Roger said the yearbook staff welcomes donations from alumni, companies and friends to cover the first year's production costs. Donors will be recognized within the yearbook.

The yearbook staff would also be interested in talking with alumni who could provide feedback on content issues. Volunteers can contact the yearbook staff at nmtyearbook@gmail.com.

Donations may be sent to the Office for Advancement, New Mexico Tech, 801 Leroy Pl., Socorro, NM 87801, earmarked for Porphyry 2007.



MACEY CENTER

Have you been charged with coordinating a family reunion, wedding reception, or special event?

Macey Center Helps!

- Cheerful staff
- Unique venue
- Indoor and Outdoor Facilities
- Meetings, Workshops, Training Classes, Lectures, Banquets of all types.
- Audio/visual equipment
- Banquet equipment
- Conference equipment

Contact our staff for more information or consultation!

801 Leroy Place • Socorro, NM 87801
505-835-5342 • macey@admin.nmt.edu

Seeking Our Missing Alumni

The Earth and Environmental Sciences Department is seeking information on the following alumni from the classes of 1953 and earlier:

Leslie Armentrout
Elizabeth Bryant
Harry Burgess (Geology '53)
Neal Burr (Geophysics '51)
Owen Carneal (Geology '53)
Cecil Coffey (Geology '49)
William Colbert (Geology '51)
James Doyle (Geology '50)
Jacob Frank (Geology '52)
Robert Gold (Geology '51)
Clifton Greenfield (Geophysics '52)
Dean Johnson (Geophysics '53)
Philip Kalish (Geology '53)
Richard Larson (Eng. Geol. '50)
Robert Mitchell (Geology '51)
Clarence Morrison (Geophysics '50)
Earl Outcalt (Geophysics '52)
Everett Ramsey (Geology '50)
Walter Riddell (Geol. Engr. '36)
Harold Russell (Geophysics '51)
Lynn Silvertooth, Jr. (Geology '51)
Robert Slingerland (Engr. Geol. '50)
Dustin Smythe
Frank Stedman (Geology '53)
Harmut Winkler (Geophysics '51)

Please contact Professor Andrew Campbell at Campbell@nmt.edu or 505.835.5327 with news on contact information you have for any of these alumni.

Calling All Alumni

A Calendar of New Mexico Tech and Socorro Events

Friday, Saturday, April 13-14

New Mexico Science and Engineering Fair
Judges and volunteers needed 505.835.5678, Anna

Saturday, April 21

Niyaz, a fusion of Middle Eastern music, 7:30 p.m., Macey Center
Tech Club/Club Macey 5 – 7:15 p.m.
Performing Arts Series

Sunday, April 22

Langdon Taylor Dinner, hosted by the SPE Student Chapter
505.835.4512 or kmbalch@nmt.edu, Karen

Thursday, April 26

Night at the Opera Dinner, 5 – 7 p.m., Macey Center,
Tech Club/Club Macey
Santa Fe Opera Apprentices, 7:30 p.m.
Performing Arts Series 505.835.5688 or www.nmtpas.org

Tuesday, May 1

Arlo Guthrie, 7:30 p.m., Macey Center
Tech Club/Club Macey, 5 – 7:15 p.m.
Performing Arts Series

Friday – Sunday, May 11-13

Reunion, Classes of 1957 and earlier
Reunion, Classes of 1972 - 1982 505.835.5292
or ctiegs@admin.nmt.edu, Carol Lynn
Annual Mother's Day Pow Wow
Women of the West History Trail Parade
www.socorro-nm.com/Events.htm

Saturday, May 12

New Mexico Tech Commencement 10 a.m.

May 13 – 19

Intel International Science Fair, Albuquerque Convention Center. Judges and Volunteers needed. See <http://www.intelisef2007.org/>

May 29 – June 4

Adventure to Mexico: Chihuahua, Copper Canyon and Mata Ortiz Performing Arts Series 505.835.5688
or pas@admin.nmt.edu

Sunday, June 3

Socorro Springs Open Golf Tournament
New Mexico Tech Golf Course 505.835.5335
or moore@nmt.edu, Russ

Wednesday, July 4

4th of July Celebration, 11 a.m. – 10 p.m.
Outdoor concert, water slide, BBQ and fireworks

Monday, August 20

Welcome Back to Tech, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m., Fidel Center
New Student Convocation, 5 p.m.

Friday, September 14

President's Golf Tournament, 8 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. flights
New Mexico Tech Golf Course 505.835.5292
or http://externalweb.nmt.edu/pres_golf/

Saturday, October 6

Trinity Site Open House, White Sands Missile Range
VLA Open House
Oktoberfest, Hammel Museum 505.835.0424
or www.socorro-nm.com/trinity.htm

October 10 – 13

14th Annual Enchanted Skies Party
<http://www.socorro-nm.com/starparty/index.html>

Saturday, October 13

5th Annual Socorro Fest, Plaza 505.835.8927

October 19 – 21

49ers Weekend
505.835.5292 or ctiegs@admin.nmt.edu, Carol Lynn

November 10 – 11

28th Annual New Mexico Mineral Symposium
New Mexico Tech Campus 505.835.5140

November 12 – 18

19th Annual Festival of the Cranes 505.835.2077

Tuesday, November 13

California Alumni and SPE Reception Anaheim, Calif.
505.835.5292 or ctiegs@admin.nmt.edu, Carol Lynn

Alumni Association Announces New Directors

A diverse and dynamic group of alumni are serving as directors of the New Mexico Tech Alumni Association for 2007 – 2009.

Ray L. Bellande attended Tech in 1961-62 before graduating from Mississippi State University with a B.S. in petroleum geology in 1965. Now living in Ocean Springs, Miss., Ray spend 25 years as an exploration-production geologist and independent oil operator before assuming a more relaxed posture making high-fire stone ware, and writing books and a column on local history.

Louise Chamberlin (B.S. Basic Sci. '67, Master of Science Teaching '72) now serves as director of auxiliary services at New Mexico Tech. One of her current projects is construction of a new children's center on campus.

Currently vice president with Shaw Environmental and Infrastructure, Tom Dillon (B.S. Ceramic Engr. '75, B.S. Metallurgical Engr. '76) is working on large proposals and programs for the federal government, including flood control projects for New Orleans, world-wide military construction and sustainment operations. His home in Sandy, Utah is his eighteenth since leaving Tech, he said, spread over seven states and two foreign countries.

After working for 25 years in Colorado, Linda Gonzales (B.S. Math '65) and her late husband Leo retired to Socorro in 1987. Linda has taught beginning computers in the Community College, and continues teaching beginning computer classes for Literacy of Socorro. She is also president of the Socorro Chapter, American Association of University Women, and active in women's health issues.

A 20-year resident of Carlsbad, Calif., Geza Keller (B.S. Math '76) is president and CEO of his company, Infinite Optics, Inc. He is also involved in the Victor Saracini Endowment at New Mexico Tech.

Dr. Navid Mojtabei (B.S. '82, M.S. '84, Mining Engr.) has spent the past 17 years teaching at New Mexico Tech. He currently serves as chair of the Mineral Engineering Department.

A Houston resident, Brett Wendt (B.S. PE '92), Brett Wendt is a petrophysicist for ConocoPhillips in the Gulf of Mexico and Latin America.

Gaylyn Yanke (B.S. BA '98) is a long-time member of the alumni association's board. Business manager in Facilities Management, Gaylyn has been on the New Mexico Tech staff since her graduation. This spring she will receive her MBA from Ashford University.

The new directors bring a number of visions to their role, including engaging more alumni in recruiting students to New Mexico Tech, and in the school's growth and improvement. That means keeping alumni up-to-date on what's happening on campus through regular communication via Gold Pan, the website and alumni events. "By the alumni being aware of Tech's strengths we create opportunities for both industry and academia," said Brett.

"Celebrate our past and plan our future shared accomplishments," said Tom.

The Last Word

After participating in the New Mexico State Science Fairs throughout her high school years, Katherine Dahm decided New Mexico Tech was the school for her. A graduate of Rio Rancho High School in Rio Rancho, N.M., she is pursuing a degree in environmental engineering. Now, in her fourth year at Tech she is participating in a research project under the guidance of Dr. Clint Richardson, associate professor of civil and environmental engineering.

Dahm's research focuses on tracing the transformation of TNT in terrestrial and aquatic environments. "My research has been quite interesting and in the future we hope to look at the effects that certain organic compounds in the soil have on the reaction kinetics," she said.

Part of her research experience at Tech included a national conference which has strengthened her dedication to research and has also provided networking and industry contacts.

"I was fortunate to present my research at the Academy of Certified Hazardous Materials Managers (ACHMM) national conference in the fall of 2006." Dahm said.

"Attending the ACHMM conference was the highlight of my research for me, as I was able to share my information about the work I was doing in the lab with people in the industry."

"Being in the lab, as well as having graduate student and

faculty mentors have sparked my interest in many areas of my major," said Dahm.

She is currently involved in the Environmental Engineering Club, the Society of Women Engineers, and is an officer for Tau Beta Pi, the national engineering academic honor society. "Other than that I also enjoy playing soccer and have done so for three years here at Tech."

"Katherine is very conscientious and takes her project very seriously," said Dr. Richardson, her mentor. "She is truly wonderful to work with."



Cheryl R. Pulaski

Honor a Great Techie!

Each year, the Alumni Association presents two awards at commencement in May. The Distinguished Achievement award honors alumni who have attained distinction and are well-respected in their professional fields. The Distinguished Service Award recognizes alumni or friends who rendered unusual service to New Mexico Tech, enhancing the influence and reputation of the school.

The Alumni Association's Distinguished Alumni Awards Committee is currently taking nominations for both awards. The deadline for submissions is Monday, April 30. Award criteria and nomination forms are available on the website at www.nmt.edu/alum_fr/index.htm or by contacting Carol Lynn Tiegs at ctiegs@admin.nmt.edu, 505.835.5292. Nominations may be sent to Carol Lynn via e-mail or at the New Mexico Tech Office for Advancement, 801 Leroy Pl., Socorro, NM 87801.

And was there a great teacher at Tech who influenced your learning, career, and life? Nominate that person for the Distinguished Teaching Award. E-mail Debby Olguin, Office of Academic Affairs, dolguin@admin.nmt.edu with the reasons you think the person should get the award. Deadline to make a nomination is March 30.

[Has your nominee already received the award? For Alumni Association awards, see <http://infohost.nmt.edu/mainpage/alumni/dist.html>. For Distinguished Teaching recipients, see <http://infohost.nmt.edu/mainpage/faculty/dist.html>.]



801 Leroy Place
Socorro, NM 87801

Address Service Requested

