

## 49ers 2007 Includes MRO, EMRTC Tours, Night at The Cap

Start growing beards and making plans to be



in Socorro on October 18-21 for the upcoming 49ers Weekend and Alumni Homecoming. And it's **Golden Reunion** for the classes of 1957 and earlier, and **Silver Reunion** for the classes of 1972-1982.

The weekend kicks off on Thursday, October 18 with *The Vigilante Band* playing at The Capitol Bar, where they'll hold court every evening of the event. The New Mexico Tech Alumni Association will host a reception at The Cap the evening of Saturday, October 20.

Guys, think creative! Tech's traditional **beard-growing contest** will feature prizes in the Most Creative, Best Historical, and Definite Longest categories. Thanks to Van Romero ('77, '79, Physics), now Tech's vice president for research and economic development, for contest prizes.



Van has also helped arrange a **Friday tour of the university's Energetic Materials Research**

**and Testing Center (EMRTC)**, where many things explode. Friday evening there is a tour the new **Magdalena Ridge Observatory (MRO)**. To reserve space contact Carol Lynn Tiegs at [ctiegs@admin.nmt.edu](mailto:ctiegs@admin.nmt.edu).



Friday also features the **5th Annual 49ers Gold Rush Golf Scramble**, hosted by the local student chapter of the Society for Petroleum Engineers, an event that gets bigger every year. Be there for champagne brunch at 8 a.m., followed by a shotgun start at 9:30 a.m. Contact Karen Balch at [kmbalch@nmt.edu](mailto:kmbalch@nmt.edu) for information.

Judy (Oliver) Lovelace will welcome alumni to her home on Friday evening for a **barbeque dinner and the annual Alumni Association meeting**. Be there to help the association make decisions on how to serve you best.

Dr. Al Smoake, Tech biology professor emeritus, is the Grand Marshall for Saturday morning's **49ers Parade**. Starting at 11 a.m., the parade concludes in the Socorro Plaza, where winners of the beard-growing contest will be announced.

The weekend also includes the traditional rugby, soccer and volleyball matches, and the **Paint the "M" M-Mountain Run**. Other plans are still being made.



Complete details are on the alumni website at: [www.nmt.edu/alum\\_fri/index.htm](http://www.nmt.edu/alum_fri/index.htm).

Don McKelvey ('60, Chemistry) has set up a blog where alumni can contact one another and share plans. You can blog through the alumni website or go directly to <http://mysite.verizon.net/mckelvey7/>

Be sure to help us plan by letting us know that you'll be here. Contact Carol Lynn Tiegs at [ctiegs@admin.nmt.edu](mailto:ctiegs@admin.nmt.edu) or 505.835.5292 to RSVP. We're all looking forward to seeing you in Socorro.

## Wilkening Endowed Faculty Position in Physics

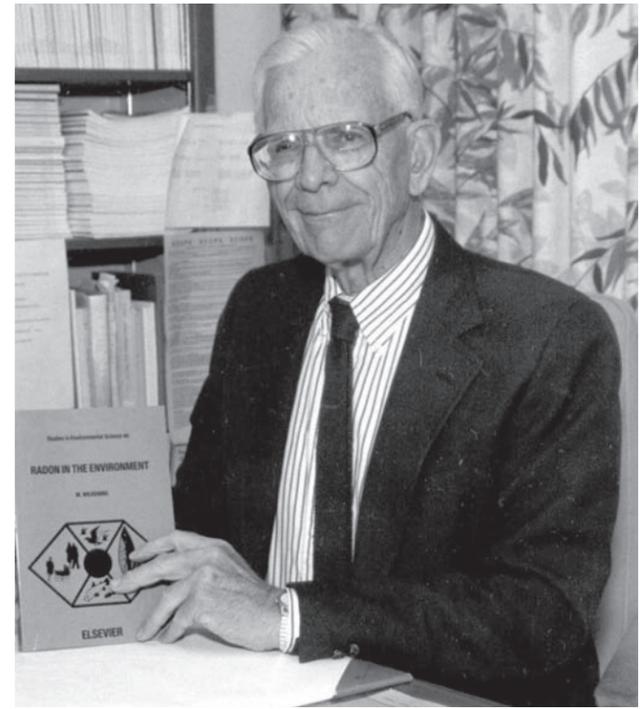
New Mexico Tech seeks to honor the late Prof. Marvin H. Wilkening by establishing the Marvin H. Wilkening Endowed Faculty Position in Physics. Dr. Wilkening, who was professor emeritus of physics and dean emeritus of graduate studies at New Mexico Tech, passed away on Sept. 24, 2006. The endowment will be used to help fund a faculty position in the Department of Physics.

Dr. Wilkening was an internationally recognized authority on radon gas, atmospheric ions and radioactive aerosols, author of more than 35 papers and a book, and active member of numerous state, national, and international committees.

Marvin and his late wife, Ruby, were known for creating a welcoming and supportive atmosphere for generations of international students, post-doctoral fellows, and visiting scientists and their families.

At New Mexico Tech, Dr. Wilkening served as chair of the Department of Physics for 15 years. As a faculty member in the department, he conducted research on the atmospheric environment, both indoors and outdoors, specializing in the use of radon gas and its decay products as powerful investigative tools.

As Dean of Graduate Studies at Tech for 16 years, Dr. Wilkening helped students in all of Tech's science and engineering fields complete their advanced degrees. This endowment is a fitting tribute to Dr. Wilkening's legacy of teaching and research. Gifts will be matched by available State of New Mexico faculty endowment funds.



Contributions may be sent to:

Office for Advancement  
New Mexico Tech  
801 Leroy Place  
Socorro, N.M. 87801.

Please make the check out to New Mexico Tech and write "Wilkening Professorship" in the memo line of the check. For additional information, you may contact the Physics Department at New Mexico Tech by calling 505.835.5328. The Wilkening family and New Mexico Tech appreciate your participation in this significant project.

## Back to Tech after 50 Years

**Colgate Craig** ('53, Mining) was among graduates of 50-plus years ago who marched



*Colgate and Stella Craig, graduation, 2007*

in New Mexico Tech's 2007 Commencement. Colgate's son, Mark, traveled all the way from Missouri to join Colgate and his wife, Stella, for the event.

It was Dr. David Westpfahl, chair of Tech's physics department, who encouraged Colgate, now the owner of Framing Concepts Gallery in Albuquerque, to be in Socorro on May 12. "He came into the store, and I asked him where he worked," Colgate said. "We got to talking about New Mexico Tech and he said I should be sure to come to Commencement. I am most appreciative."



*Colgate Craig, Dr. Westpfahl*



*Colgate and Stella Craig, graduation, 1953*



*Colgate Craig, Dr. Green, 1953*

"Much has changed during the past 54 years in all the renovation and additions," said Colgate. "The only things that are still in the same place are the trees that were planted around 1951-1952. They have grown immensely and add to the peace and place of the campus, especially around the older sections. The new contemporary buildings stand out on their own as they should."

**Wayne Myers** ('51, Geology), now a resident of Boise, also made it all the way to Socorro for Commencement, stopping to see family in Albuquerque on the way. Wayne was the yearbook editor while at Tech, and is now in touch with Tech's current *Porphyry* editors.

## Love Us, Love Our Dogs

Get to know Director for Advancement Cheryl Pulaski and Assistant Director for Advancement Carol Lynn Tiegs for long and you'll get to know Howie and Bella Rose as well.

Howie, Cheryl's yellow Labrador retriever, has been with her for 10 years. "I was reading the *Valencia County News-Bulletin* one day and saw an ad for labs," Cheryl said. "I had two at the time and I just wanted to look. But this pudgy, wudgy boy came running out from a litter of eight, and ended up going home to join Malcolm and Lillian Grey."



Howie has honed his chief skills over the years. "Being so cute is his saving grace," Cheryl said. "When he decides to feather the house in down pillow, he just stands there like he's done a creative work of art. And his smiling face and waggy tail make him a great guest greeter."



Three-year old Bella Rose has been the perfect girl since Carol Lynn encountered her as an eight-week old in the mellow semi-ghost town of Crestone, Colo. "She's slept through the night and been

totally housebroken since the moment I brought her home," said Carol Lynn. "And, she's even charmed herself into acquiring godparents."

Carol Lynn describes Bella Rose as "... best of breeds. Of all the breeds she is, she's the best of them."

Cheryl and Carol Lynn would enjoy hearing other pet tales. Send stories and photos to Carol Lynn at [ctiegs@admin.nmt.edu](mailto:ctiegs@admin.nmt.edu) or Office for Advancement, New Mexico Tech, 801 Leroy Place, Socorro, NM 87801.

## Association Officer Slate Includes a Range of Talents

Alumni Association members in good standing have a talented slate of officers to vote for at the annual association meeting, October 19 in Socorro.

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

The association's candidate for secretary/treasurer for 2007/2008 is **Louise Chamberlin** ('67, BS, Basic Sci., '72, Master of Science Teaching). Louise 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. She and her husband, Dr. Richard Chamberlin ('67, B.S., '75, M.S., Geology, now with the New Mexico Bureau of Geology), are long-time supporters of New Mexico Tech.

For former petroleum engineer **Ray Bellande**, retirement from his first career has brought opportunities to indulge his love of art and pottery, as well as the chance to serve on the new board of directors for New Mexico Tech's Alumni Association. Ray is the 2007/2008 candidate for association vice president/president-elect.

Ray has spent the past several years restoring his 1923 Craftsman bungalow in Ocean Springs, Miss. In the process, he has also created an "enchanted forest" around his house, painting the trees to match the house's colorful interior.

Ray has combined his love of pottery, painting, history, and nature while transforming his home and its environs into a verdant

## Calendar of Alumni Events

For more information on events, to suggest ideas for events, or to volunteer to help in planning events such as reunions and 49ers, contact Carol Lynn Tiegs, Assistant Director for Advancement, 505.835.5292 or [ctiegs@admin.nmt.edu](mailto:ctiegs@admin.nmt.edu).

### Saturday, July 14, 2007: Northern NM Alumni Party!

If you live in Los Alamos, Las Vegas, Rio Rancho, Santa Fe, Taos, or anywhere else near Santa Fe, you're invited! Find out the latest from New Mexico Tech, and help kick-off your local alumni chapter.

4 - 7 p.m. at the home of John ('60) and Ann Dowdle  
1078 Governor Dempsey Drive, Santa Fe

Meet

- Members of the New Mexico Tech Board of Regents
- President Daniel H. López
- Ricardo Maestas, Vice President for Student and University Relations
- Santa Fe/Taos/Los Alamos Alumni Chapter President Charlie Goodman

RSVP to Carol Lynn Tiegs, Assistant Director for Advancement, 505.835.5292 or [ctiegs@admin.nmt.edu](mailto:ctiegs@admin.nmt.edu).

### Thursday, July 26: Albuquerque Alumni Reception

Location: St. Clair Winery & Bistro, 901 Rio Grande Blvd. NW. Time: 5:30 - 8 p.m. (No-host bar).

- Catch up with fellow alumni like Colgate Craig ('53), Paul Shoemaker ('71) and Bill Chavez ('76, '77)
- Chat with Pres. Daniel H. López
- Hear the latest on New Mexico Tech from Vice President Ricardo Maestas and faculty
- Make plans for an area Alumni Chapter



RSVP to Carol Lynn Tiegs, Assistant Director for Advancement, 505.835.5292 or [ctiegs@admin.nmt.edu](mailto:ctiegs@admin.nmt.edu).

### Friday, September 28: Phoenix Area Alumni Event

### Friday, October 5: Houston-area Alumni Event

### October 19, 20, and 21: 49ers Celebration

See <http://www.nmt.edu/mainpage/alumni/49ers/homepage.html> for details.

### Tuesday, November 13: California Alumni Event

Reception for those attending Society of Petroleum Engineers convention and all California alumni. In Anaheim.

### Thursday, February 21, 2008: Colorado Alumni Event

## Bellande's art finds soul mate in nature

By VALERIE WOOD

For historian Ray Bellande, recreation has brought him an art form that can be both fascinating as well as functional.

It can also be practical. "There's been a lot of talk about the origin of the lavender live oak tree on Pecos Street."

"The tree is a native species," he said. "I cleaned it out and painted it to protect it."

After painting the trunk with lavender oil and added a bonus tree, covered in hues of green and yellow. The image takes on a three-dimensional quality and blends with the nearby landscape and complex trees. It has also attracted attention of passersby.

"The best people are in Santa Fe," said Bellande, who explained that the tree was designed by Hurricane George last year.

He recently received an e-mail from a lady who said that her 10-year-old granddaughter was inspired by the painted tree. The e-mail went on to say that the lady said the girl that it was part of an enchanted forest.

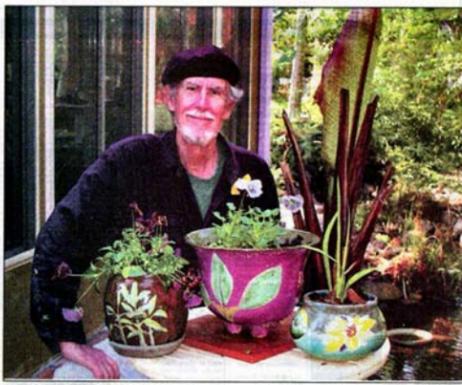
"And that's just what it seems to be. The magic of Ocean Springs is in its trees," said Bellande. "We do not invest enough money or time in protecting them, and they are unconsciously our greatest natural asset."

The lavender oak is one of several painted trees in Bellande's yard, an art form that he began about three years ago when he was restoring his 1923 Craftsman bungalow at 523 Jackson Ave.

He describes his process originally as one of "restoration" while he was painting his house. "It's a way to clean your brushes," he said, "using a mixture of colors and shades of green, deep red and yellow ochre."

"I had the color schemes inside the house and I wanted to put them outside. I guess a job was done." People started making comments and they were mostly positive.

Three years ago Bellande also began making other classes from Santa Fe and Las



Ray Bellande showcases some of his pottery which is spread throughout his home and yard.

venue. His works of pottery are interspersed among his sunroom, a koi pond, and pottery studio, and a multitude of plants. He calls it his "poor man's Giverny," after Monet's country residence.

Ray recently got in touch with New Mexico Tech, which he said "left a wonderful image in his mind" despite his having attended for only two semesters. He went on to get his petroleum engineering degree elsewhere. But his love and support for Tech prompted Director for Advancement Cheryl Pulaski to invite him to throw his hat in the ring to serve on the new Alumni Board of Directors.

"Ray will add enlightenment and perspective, having attended another college," Pulaski said. "We are seeing to refresh and revitalize the alumni association, and forming this new board is one of our first steps."

Information on the new board and new bylaws for the Alumni Association is posted at [http://www.nmt.edu/alum\\_fr/index.htm](http://www.nmt.edu/alum_fr/index.htm).

## Passings

[More detailed information can be found at <http://www.nmt.edu/mainpage/obituaries/2007.html>]

**Kenneth Bayer**, a 1938 graduate in geological engineering, passed away January 27, 2007 at age 90. He was born in the Bronx, and after earning his degree from the New Mexico School of Mines, Ken spent his next 25 years working on geological and geophysical projects around the globe.

Ken spent his second quarter century working for the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey (U.S. Dept. of Commerce) and the USGS. After his retirement in 1988, Ken resided in northern VA. He and his wife Vivian had three children and two grandchildren.

**Richard Brannan** passed away on Feb. 4, 2007, at the age of 82. He earned his Master's of Science Teaching degree at New Mexico Tech in 1971 and was a longtime teacher in Belen,

having a great impact on hundreds of budding scientists. He was president of the Southwest Geological Society and a New Mexico district director of Boy Scouts of America. He is survived by his wife of 40 years, Gloria; four sons and four daughters; 16 grandchildren and 26 great-grandchildren.

**Lorin "Len" Hawes**, a 1953 graduate in chemistry, passed away on March 9, 2007 at his home in Runaway Bay, Queensland, Australia. According to his brother, William Hawes ('60, BS, mining engineering), Len had a colorful life, which included teaching chemistry at the National University of Canberra and running two boomerang parks. A more detailed account of Len's life appears on the Tech alumni website.

**Larry Libersky** ('78, Ph.D., physics), passed away in March 2007. He was born on June 11, 1946. After earning his Ph.D. at New Mexico Tech, Larry joined Tech's Terminal Effects Research and Analysis (TERA) group in 1979 as a post-doc. He worked for them as a research physicist through 1997, when he left for other employment. At the time of his death, he worked at Los Alamos National Laboratory. According to his family, physics was his profession, which he loved, but his passion was playing trumpet and guitar, composing his own songs, and writing many articles concerning spiritual matters. He was a resident of Magdalena.

**Daniel Abraham Roddy**, a 1934 alumnus of the New Mexico School of Mines, passed away on March 5, 2007. Dan was born February 7, 1912, in Roswell and had a long and illustrious career in mining engineering. After his retirement in 1977, he was interested in rockhounding and lapidary.

**Florence M. Walker**, age 94, formerly of Socorro and Green River, Wyo., passed away Thursday, February 15, 2007 at the Sarah A. Todd Memorial Home, Carlisle, PA. Florence was known to many alumni as an administrative assistant in the Graduate Office of New Mexico Tech. After retirement at age 67, she completed her college education, earning a bachelor's degree with highest honors from Tech.

**Amber Alice Woodyatt** ('04, BS, chemistry) passed away suddenly at her Albuquerque home on May 18, 2007. Amber was born in Farmington on Feb. 18, 1975, and was a 1993 graduate of Farmington High School. She spend a year at West Point before enrolling at New Mexico Tech, where she studied biology and eventually took a degree in chemistry. At the time of her passing, Amber had just finished her first year of pharmacy school at the University of New Mexico and was an employee at Smith's pharmacy in Socorro on weekends.

Amber was a lifelong advocate of animal rights and was formerly employed at the Ark of Socorro Veterinary Clinic. The family requests that donations be made in her memory to the Animal Protective Association of Socorro.

## Alumni Survey/Sign-up

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred contact media: \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Activities I'd like to see through a local alumni chapter are: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Any other news or ideas? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Make sure you are an active Alumni Association member eligible to vote at the Annual Meeting. Free gift when you send your Alumni Association dues.

\_\_\_\_\_ Annual Alumni Association Dues enclosed (\$30 or \$50/alumni couple)

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

\_\_\_\_\_ Check enclosed

\_\_\_\_\_ Please charge \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to my \_\_\_ Visa \_\_\_ MasterCard

Account #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## People You Know

### 1960s

**Barney P. Popkin** ('65, ground water), for the past 2 ½ years has been providing environmental procedures and environmentally sound design training and project monitoring and evaluation services to missions in over 20 countries in Asia and the Near East.

**Chia-Li Wei** ('69, BS, metallurgical engr.) has been appointed as senior director of technology at AXT Inc. of Fremont, CA. He is responsible for directing all aspects of the company's technology development.

### 1970s

**David L. Goodrich** ('78, MS, hydrology) is a licensed geologist and a member of the American Institute of Hydrology. He has been working for the State of NC as a groundwater specialist for 14 years. He and his wife Margaret have two children, who are home-schooled.

**Dr. Scott Sandford** ('78, BS, physics; '78, BS, math) had a good year in 2006. He was named a Fellow of the Meteoritical Society, received the NASA Ames Scientist Award, and received the Astronomical Association of Northern California's Award for Outstanding and Continuous Support in Distinguishing and Fostering Amateur Astronomy.

Sandford is a scientist at NASA Ames Research Center in California, working in the fields of meteoritics, astrochemistry, and cometary science. He is a co-leader of Ames' Astrochemistry Laboratory and an editor of the journal Meteoritics and Planetary Science.

**Dr. Terry Wallace** ('78, BS, math; '78, BS, geophysics) has been named as Los Alamos National Laboratory's principal associate director for science, technology and engineering. Wallace has been the acting associate director since June 2006. He joined the lab's technical staff in May 2003. Before joining Los Alamos, he was a professor of geosciences at the University of Arizona. He also was an associate in the applied mathematics graduate program, curator of the University of Arizona Mineral Museum, and director of the Southern Arizona Seismic Observatory.

### 1980s

**Dr. Charlotte Rowe** ('81, BS, geology; '00, Ph.D., geophysics) participates for the fourth time in the annual Vail Invitational Figure Skating Championships on July 11 to 14. Charlotte writes, "I started skating competitively about four years ago, and of course I enter the Vail competition as much for the beautiful trip as for the skating. It's a good (if expensive) excuse to take a weekend and head for a spectacular part of the Rockies in the middle of summer. If I didn't have so much junk to haul up there with skates, costumes, yadda yadda, I'd probably do it on my motorcycle."



In her spare time, Charlotte doubles as a seismologist. In August 2007, she celebrates her five-year service anniversary as a seismologist at Los Alamos National Laboratory. She has recently been appointed to the National Research Council as a member of the committee on seismology and geodesy.

**Marty Nelson** ('82, MST) retired from public school teaching in Shiprock and is now relaxing as an adjunct faculty member at San Juan Community College in Geology and Astronomy. She also keeps busy bringing up two active teenage daughters.

**Dr. Aileen A. O'Donoghue** ('87, MS, physics; '89, Ph.D., physics) has been named to the Henry Priest Chair of Physics at St. Lawrence University in Canton, New York. Aileen joined the faculty at St. Lawrence in 1988. She spent the 2001-2002 academic year on sabbatical at the Vatican Observatory Research Group in Tucson, and has written the "Mountain Skies" column for Adirondac magazine. In addition to her astronomy research, O'Donoghue also has an interest in the connections between science and religion; in 2001, she participated in the physics and cosmology group of the Science and the Spiritual Quest discussions sponsored by the Center for Theology and the Natural Sciences in Paris, with the support of a grant from the Templeton Foundation. She is under contract to write a book about her spiritual journey.

### 1990s

**Eric Hobbs** ('93, BS, physics) writes, "My puny Y chromosomes once again lost the battle against **Betti Jo (Matthews) Hobbs** ('94, BS, business admin.) dominating X chromosomes, and the result was our second daughter. Kaylee Autumn Hobbs was born on July 18, 2006. She and her 4-year-old sister, Jolene, are having a great time playing together. Betti Jo is taking a brief hiatus from being a special education teacher to be fantastic mommy. Eric is a solutions engineer for Talent Technology Corp, and we're all still living in the suburbs of San Antonio, TX. Yee haw!"

**Alan Kerr** ('89, BS, geoscience; '93, BS, chemistry and math; '99, BS, computer science) and **Stephany Moore** ('95, BS, technical communication) were featured in the June 7 issue of *New Mexico Magazine* for their work in providing a safe haven for turtles at their home in San Acacia, NM. Stephany, now research services manager at New Mexico Tech, started sheltering turtles in 1996 while working for a contractor at the Stallion Site on White Sands Missile Range. Turtles on the Range were suffering from the effects of severe drought and grass fires. Kerr, now a scientist in the Array Operations Center at the NRAO, became hooked on the turtles as well. Concerned about the ever-decreasing habitat for turtles in New Mexico, Stephany and Alan currently house some two dozen turtles of assorted types on their five-acre property.

**Darwin S. (formerly Marjorie) Ward** ('93, BS, physics) recently left the Bicycle Federation of Wisconsin and accepted a position as a program planning analyst senior at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Department of Transportation Services, Transportation Demand Management Program. She writes, "With 65,000 students and faculty and 13,000 parking spaces, it's my job to try to convince people not to drive to campus. I am also currently playing in three bands and still carrying on a long distance relationship with my partner of 11 years, Tracy." To keep up with the day-to-day minutia of Dar's life, visit <http://www.mbigmistake.blogspot.com/>.

**Cort Dougan** ('96, BS, computer science; '98, MS, computer science) and **Joleen Welborn** ('99, BS, biology) were married on May 20, 2006 in Taos, NM. Many former Techies attended the wedding which greatly pleased the bride and groom. Cort is still working with FSMLabs in Socorro, and Joleen currently teaches math for Magdalena Middle/High School. Joleen was recently accepted in a teacher exchange program with San Pedro de Atacama in Chile. The couple plans to spawn a future Techie or two in the next few years.

### 2000s

**Mason Hutchison** ('00, BS, engineering mechanics) writes, "Our family has moved to California recently for me to take a design engineer position with Scaled Composites, a company building a private manned space tourism program. In 2004, this company was the first to send a man into space under a privately funded contract, which won them the Ansari Xprize. Since, they have begun development of the second level of space travel -- the building of a spaceship capable of taking up to eight people into space. I am working on various portions of the flight control systems and am very excited to be a part of a history-making program."

"My family and I have been living in Albuquerque since. My daughter, Ella, is now three. My wife, Cara, will begin working on various art projects in our community of Tehachapi, CA."

**Raven Alexis Gary** ('04, BS, petr. engr.; '06, MS, engr. mgt.) and **Samuel Allen Goswick** ('06, BS, mechanical engr.) were married on March 17, 2006, at the Little Church of the West in Las Vegas, NV. They took a trip to Spitsbergen, Norway, to watch polar bears. They are making their home in Parker, CO. Raven is an engineer at EnCana Oil and Gas (USA) in Denver. Samuel is an associate engineer at Toombs & Associates Engineering Specialists, Inc., in Englewood, CO.

**Benjamin Ross Ewing** ('03, BS, materials engr.) married Jean Elizabeth Eiserle on June 30, 2006 in Fort Wayne, IN. Jean is a 2003 graduate of the University of Saint Francis with a degree in psychology and is currently working on a master's degree in counseling at the same university. Benjamin is employed at Los Alamos National Laboratory.

## Tech Alumni Author Book on WorldTrek

Tech alumni Russ and Carla Fisher had the trip of a lifetime and lived to write about it.

The Fishers' book, *WorldTrek: A Family Odyssey*, came out of a one-year trip around the world with their two daughters, Andrea and Lesley, aged 12 and 13 at the trip's start. The trip was both an educational experience and a flat-out adventure.

From Greece to the Great Wall, from the Pyramids to Polynesia, from Stockholm to Sydney, the family circled the globe, learning geography, geology, languages, history, customs, and a lot about each other. Traveling by plane, train, bus, boat, foot, and bicycle, they sampled new foods, talked to new people, and experienced new cultures.

Russ ('72, BS, geology; '79, MS, geochemistry) and Carla (formerly Houston) ('73, BS, biology) had long intended to take a major trip with their daughters; and, in early 2001, they decided to put their regular lives on hold and take the plunge.

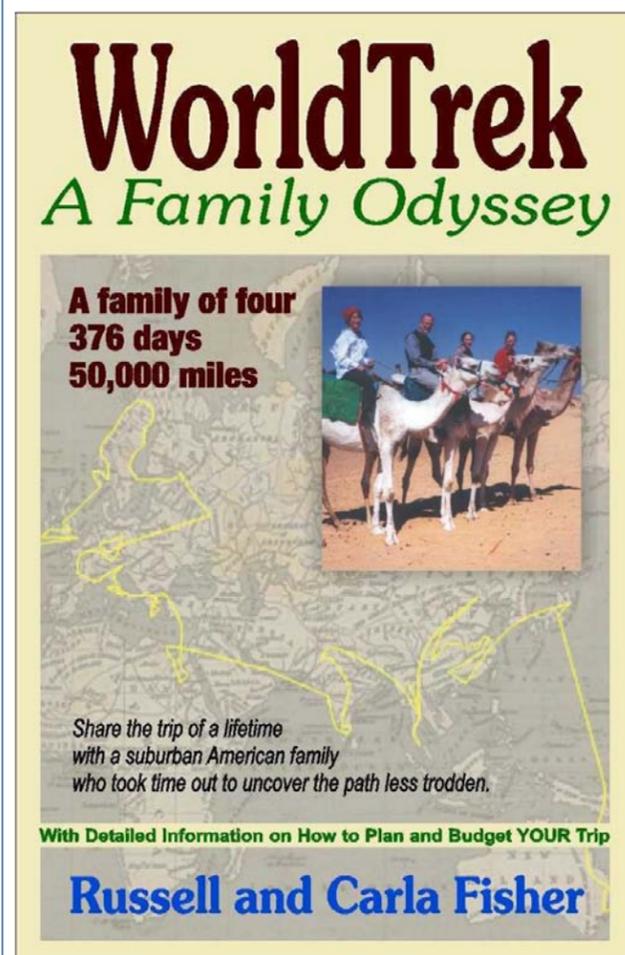
Russ writes, "As populations expand and resources seem to contract, conflicts sometimes arise from a lack of understanding of other people's frames of reference. Geologists often are forced to confront those issues in ways many other professionals are not. There are also things that a person can't learn in school. A major trip would give Carla and me the opportunity to genuinely participate in our daughters' education, even if it was only for a year."

By the end of the trip, he wrote, "Over the course of a year in close proximity, we had grown together in ways we would only begin to understand as time passed."

The book includes tips on how to plan and budget for such a trip, as well as suggestions on home schooling while traveling and how to maintain an even keel when traveling with teenagers.

Russ and Carla's book, *WorldTrek: A Family Odyssey*, is available from <http://www.worldtrekonline.com/>, along with excerpts, photos, and other information.

Kathy Hedges



## Alumni Website has New Look

For the latest information on fellow alumni, alumni events, and news of interest, check the New Mexico Tech Alumni Association's new website ([www.nmt.edu/alum-fr/index.htm](http://www.nmt.edu/alum-fr/index.htm)).

Thanks to Kathleen Hedges and Lorenzo Maes ('05, Information Technology), the site has a new look that allows us to keep information more current, and helps alumni navigate more smoothly.

Now you can blog with fellow alums thanks to Don McKelvey ('60, Chemistry). Get in touch via the blog and let people know you'll be at 49ers Weekend and **Golden** (classes of 1957 and earlier) and **Silver** (classes of 1972-1982) reunions, October 18-21. You can access the blog at <http://mysite.verizon.net/mckelvey71>.

Send your news and other suggestions for the website or Alumni Association to Carol Lynn Tiegs at [ctiegs@admin.nmt.edu](mailto:ctiegs@admin.nmt.edu).

## NEW MEXICO TECH ALUMNI PLAY VALUABLE ROLES AS ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

They've already walked the walk and talked the talk as students at New Mexico Tech. Now they're working professionals in their chosen fields.

Who better, then, to advise the students who follow in their footsteps, than alumni serving as members of department, corporate, or industrial advisory boards.

"The corporate advisory board is a valuable component to the Technical Communication program," said Dr. Julie Ford, assistant professor of Tech's Technical Communication (TC) program.

"Our board members are talented professionals who are knowledgeable in the latest trends in the field," said Ford. "They enthusiastically share this knowledge with faculty and students through annual visits to campus, as well as with involvement in our program's internship class and senior seminar and senior thesis courses."

For Tech alumni, it's all about giving back.

"I remembered how helpful the board members were to me when I was a student, and I was honored to be asked to serve in that capacity for other students," said **Rebecca (Ideus) Taylor**, one of two TC graduates in May 1999.

"We're here to provide an industry perspective to the students and faculty," said Becca, product marketing manager for Hewlett-Packard. "This means we help the students think about how they apply their education and the skills they've learned to the professional world."

"For the program itself, we offer insight into the state of our profession and whether the curriculum is keeping up with it," Becca said. "Meeting to do all of this annually actually bolsters the school's accreditation renewals."

And the students, faculty, and school aren't the only ones who benefit from the relationship.

"I feel I receive just as much, if not more, than I give," she said. "Working on the board allows me to extend my own perspective. Sometimes, because the workday is so crazy busy, we business people get isolated from the world around us."

**Matt Osielski** (B.S. '00) has served on the TC corporate board four years. After graduation, he joined Qwest Communications in Denver as an information developer.

For Osielski, the best part of being a board member is working with students. "I enjoy helping students communicate clearly and concisely,



and using that knowledge to demonstrate their skills and experience through resumes, portfolios, and interviews," he said.

He joined the board to help ensure that TC students are receiving the training to benefit them when they reach the workplace. "Qwest also benefits by learning about the latest developments in technical communication," he said.

**Charlie Robino** earned bachelor's and master's degrees ('80, '82) in Materials and Metallurgical Engineering at Tech, and now works for Sandia National Laboratories in the Joining and Casting department. He serves on the Materials and Metallurgical Engineering advisory board at New Mexico Tech.

"Our job is to help the department maintain connections with what essentially amounts to their customers," said Robino. Members also keep departments informed about changing trends, and are a source for independent feedback when considering changes in the curriculum or to department policies, he said.

**Dr. Douglas J. Taylor**, a senior scientist/department manager with TPL, Inc. in Albuquerque, serves on the Materials and Metallurgical Engineering advisory board with Robino.



"I spent six years in graduate school after New Mexico Tech and have been working in my profession for 12 years," said Taylor. "The most valuable service that I can offer is this experience, and what is needed to make

the transition to either graduate school or industry," he said. "By helping the faculty (develop) undergraduate students, the students can be better prepared for their futures."

"I like to stay in touch with New Mexico Tech and my department, and serving on the advisory board is a great way to do this," he said.

**Martin Schluep** is the manager of Air Quality Services with Kleinfelder West, Inc. in Albuquerque, and has served on the advisory board of the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department since its inception in 2002.

He earned both his B.S. and M.S. degrees in Environmental Engineering ('99, '00) from New Mexico Tech.

"I very much enjoy keeping in touch with Dr. Mark Cal (department chair), and through him get introduced to his students, who may become potential new hires at Kleinfelder, or have them intern with us," Schluep said.

"Sometimes I act as a liaison between students and the professional world if they have specific questions," he said.

For Fatma Arzum Simsek-Ege, the opportunity to mentor students is tantamount. "Anything that I can do to help them makes me happy," said Simsek-Ege, who received her Ph.D. from New Mexico Tech in December of 2000 in Materials Engineering, and is now with Intel. She has served on the department's advisory board for six years.

She agreed to serve on the Materials Department's advisory board "... because I want other good students like me to be interested in New Mexico Tech, because I believe it has a lot to offer."



"I know the industry, I know what industry expects from recent graduates," she said. "I also know the challenges or difficulties that New Mexico Tech students might be going through, because I was there."

Among the newest members of the advisory boards on campus is **Jesse Piotrowicz**, who was among the 33 graduates to receive a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering last May.

He now works for Applied Technology Associates.

"I found it hugely rewarding to help improve the undergraduate experience for myself and my fellow mechanical engineering students at Tech," said Piotrowicz.

As a freshly minted graduate, he brings to the board the perspective of someone just making the transition from the classroom to the workplace. "I'm right in the thick of it," he said.

Another young member of the Mechanical Engineering board is Sandia Labs employee **Korrie Collins** (B.S. '06).



Collins said that as a recent graduate, she still feels a strong connection to Tech and its students, and understands their issues and concerns. "And as a new employee, I'm able to communicate to the department

what companies such as mine expect from recent graduates, and what areas the department can improve in to increase the employability of its students

As the student representative to department faculty, Collins said she enjoyed improving communication between students and faculty, and giving students a voice.

"So, what I enjoy most about being an advisory board member is being able to continue that relationship and help improve the department in any way I can," she said

*Valerie Kimble*

## William H. Marble Receives Distinguished Alumnus Award from President López

President Daniel H. López took the opportunity, during the President's Club Banquet on April 28, to thank **William H. "Bill" Marble** ('73, BS, petroleum engineering) for his service to New Mexico Tech and present him with the Club's Alumni Award.

After graduating from Tech, Bill went on to distinguish himself in a long and productive career in petroleum engineering. He rose to become vice president of Business Development at Hallwood Energy Corporation and later started his own successful petroleum company.

Bill has been a continuous supporter of New Mexico Tech. Most recently, he and his wife, Kate, established the W. H. Marble Scholarship Endowment, which benefits petroleum engineering students from out-of-state.

New Mexico Tech is grateful to Bill and Kate Marble and other forward-thinking and generous individuals who enable future generations of students to pursue promising careers.



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