



## Dear Fellow Alumni,

Some great things are already underway for the New Mexico Tech Alumni Association this brand new year. These include the formation of a new Colorado Alumni Chapter on February 1, chapters in process in Dallas/Fort Worth and Houston, and a full year's schedule of alumni activities. Check out the alumni webpage, [www.nmt.edu/alum\\_fr](http://www.nmt.edu/alum_fr) for announcements and activities in your area.

Or consider starting a chapter in your part of the world.

You'll also be hearing more about the Alumni Association Board of Directors' effort to create a five-year strategic plan for the association, reflecting your views, interests and desires. The Alumni Association Strategic Plan will parallel the strategic plan adopted by the administration of New Mexico Tech ([www.nmt.edu/about/pres/pdf/StratPlan2006.pdf](http://www.nmt.edu/about/pres/pdf/StratPlan2006.pdf)), with assistance from Tech alumni Paul Shoemaker, '71. Paul will also be helping with our efforts.

We expect the strategic plan to help define the mission of the Alumni Association, and to expand and empower our membership in ways that are meaningful to you and advance New Mexico Tech.

You can make a difference through your support of the Alumni Association in this endeavor. If you have been involved in a strategic planning process or wish to be involved at the committee level, the board welcomes your input and participation. Please contact Carol Lynn Tiegs at [ctiegs@admin.nmt.edu](mailto:ctiegs@admin.nmt.edu) and let her know you want to sign on to help.

Finally my thanks to all of you who paid your Alumni Association dues this year, and all of you who got in under the wire and became lifetime members before those rates increased. As a dues-paying, active member, your vote at the Annual General Meeting makes a difference. And your funds help provide for the communication and social events that keep us connected.

The Board of Directors and I look forward to your questions and comments. You can find news of board activity on the alumni webpage, and send your input to us at [alumni@admin.nmt.edu](mailto:alumni@admin.nmt.edu). I look forward to hearing from you as we continue to move forward building the New Mexico Tech Alumni Association.

Geza L. Keller, '76  
President

## For Alumni who Return as Faculty, It's All about the Stories

by Valerie Kimble spouse's department; they have two children.

"Hi, I'm Sharon Sessions."

"Oh, hi, I'm Michaelann Tartis."

And so it was that the former Sharon Bates (B.S., math/physics, 97) and Michaelann Shortencarier (B.S., chemical engr., 02) met for the first time as New Mexico Tech alumni who returned to the classroom, not as naïve undergraduates, but as tenure-track faculty.

Joining them were two alumni with years *and years* of tenured faculty experience under their respective (and still trim!) belts – Tom Engler (B.S., geology, 80; B.S. petroleum engr., 1982; M.S., petroleum engr., 992) and Navid Mojtabai (B.S., mining engr., 82; M.S., mining engr., 84).

By the end of an hour-long visit, the seasoned veterans were dishing advice to their younger female counterparts, as the foursome shared stories and told tales-out-of-school about their formative years as Techies.

Things have changed a lot at Tech since the guys were undergrads. Then a beer truck made its way to the Athletic Field to fuel the gusto at events such as St. Pat's and 49ers, blue movies were shown at the Tin Can, and cafeteria food was, well, cafeteria food.

"It's true about the X-rated movies," said Mojtabai. "One time they showed 'Debbie Does Dallas.'"

Meanwhile, as a social sign of her times, Sessions recalled arriving on campus to see pin-on buttons that featured racing stick figures.

"The buttons had five male stick figures chasing after a female stick figure, and one woman stick figure chasing her too," she said.

Tartis, for her part, educated the others as to a tradition that since has gone the way of the Ore House: the Freshman Toast.

Engler and Mojtabai looked at each other. *Freshman Toast?*

"I think it was officially banned," explained Tartis. "On the night before the first day of classes, the upperclassmen would get the freshmen 'toasted' – 1998 was the last year it was officially held."

Michaelann met her husband, John Tartis, at the Freshman Toast – in fact; all four alumni met their spouses as Tech undergraduates. John has two degrees from Tech – a B.S. in chemical engineering (00) and an M.S. in mechanical engineering (02).

Tom met Nancy Sparks (B.S., petroleum engr., 82; M.S., petroleum engr., 92) at a party, he said, somewhat cryptically. (Do any alumni readers know the *real* story?)

Navid met Cindy Rybachek in the classroom – he was the one teaching the course. (In his defense, Cindy *was* a returning student.) She left Tech with degrees in Mining Engineering (B.S., mineral engr. 92; M.S., mining engr., 1994) and eventually became an attorney.

Cindy still teaches a law course in mining for her former

Sharon met Byron at Freshmen Orientation in the fall of 92. "We started dating three weeks later, got engaged the following summer, and married the summer before my junior year," she said. These days, Byron is building a home for the couple and their two children.

From Socorro, the Englers took off to discover life among the employed, and returned to town 10 years later when they both decided to earn graduate degrees. He was awarded his Ph.D. from the University of Oklahoma in 1995, and spent the next three years in Tulsa as an assistant professor at OU before joining the faculty at New Mexico Tech. Nancy is a teacher at Socorro's Cottonwood Valley Charter School.

Ironically, Navid's graduate degrees both bear the signature of a Wilkening – Dr. Marvin Wilkening's on his M.S. degree, and that of Dr. Laurel Wilkening, the Wilkening daughter, on his Ph.D. from the University of Arizona.

With the writing still fresh on his 1990 diploma from U of A, Navid joined Tech's Mineral Engineering Department in January 1990 and spent that spring semester hammering out his doctoral thesis during the wee hours of the night.

The Sessions left their native state for the Pacific Northwest, settling in Eugene, Oregon, where Sharon began graduate studies at the University of Oregon; she earned her Ph.D. in physics in 2002.

Michaelann went straight from her B.S. degree to earn her doctorate from the University of California at Davis in 2006. She had started work as a post-doc at UC Davis when Tech came a-calling.

Having students call her "Dr. Tartis" has been a transition for Michaelann, as well as *not* addressing her former professors by their academic titles.

"I still find it difficult to call Dr. Weinkauf 'Don' and to call" – here she looks at Mojtabai – "*you* 'Navid,'" she said.

Sessions has gotten used to being addressed as "Dr. Sessions," saying she prefers using her given name. "But if anyone calls me 'Mrs. Sessions,' that kind of throws me off!"

Mojtabai recalled walking into the Gym for registration when he first returned to campus as a faculty member, only to be told to walk back to the end of the line.

"I told them that now I was one of the bad guys," he said.

Meanwhile, when Tartis returned here to teach, she was asked for her student identification card.

All four alumni-faculty never had second thoughts about returning to Tech and Socorro, and that when away from here they found themselves missing the small size of the community, the blue skies, the green chile, and the rock formations so ideal for climbing.

Engler had been gone from Tech for some time, and he returned as the father of three children, so his point of view was different from that of the others.

... All about the Stories

Continued on page 2

## . . . All about the Stories

*Continued from page 1*

“One of the main questions Nancy and I had was, ‘Is this the kind of environment we want for our children to grow up in?’” he said, adding that Socorro has a core of very good kids and very good teachers. “As long as they stay in that core, kids do really well.”

Sessions spent a year as a visiting professor before she was hired for the tenure-track post, and found the department very supportive in accommodating her needs as a working mother. (The couple has a son, Rio, and a daughter, Sky.)

“No one was upset when I’d bring my child to campus,” said Sessions; and her request to push back her tenure date was approved.

The tenure process is demanding and can be quite stressful. “It’s not an easy transition to begin with, and then you throw a newborn child into the mix . . .” Sessions said.

In another link to Tech, Michaelann’s parents, **Mona Alire** and **Mickey Shortencarier**, met and married while both were students here, although the couple eventually parted ways.

“Oh, I’ve got stories about them!” laughed Engler.

It’s all about the stories.

## New Mexico Tech Greeting Cards On Sale

New Mexico Tech greeting cards, featuring four scenic photos of the Tech campus and “M” Mountain are now available at the New Mexico Tech bookstore and the Office for Advancement. Packages of four cards (blank inside) and envelopes retail for \$4.99 at the bookstore, or \$5.99 (including shipping) through the Office for Advancement.

To order through the Office for Advancement, call 575.835-5292 or e-mail [ctiegs@admin.nmt.edu](mailto:ctiegs@admin.nmt.edu).

Proceeds from card sales benefit the New Mexico Tech Alumni Association.

## TECH LICENSE PLATES GAINING GROUND

Have you seen one yet? So far, about 200 license plates bearing the initials NMT and with a picture of M Mountain are roaming the streets and highways of the state.

Your car could have one of them! Next time you renew your vehicle registration, go to <http://www.tax.state.nm.us/pubs/specplat.htm> and get your official New Mexico Tech license plate. The official state plates featuring M Mountain are also available at Motor Vehicle Division offices in Socorro, Albuquerque, Rio Rancho, Santa Fe, Los Alamos, Farmington, Carlsbad, Roswell, Hobbs, and Las Cruces.

For each plate, \$25 of the \$37 fee comes to our office to help produce *Gold Pan* for you.

### Gold Pan Editorial Staff

#### Editors in Chief:

Cheryl Pulaski ([cpulaski@admin.nmt.edu](mailto:cpulaski@admin.nmt.edu))  
Carol Lynn Tiegs ([ctiegs@admin.nmt.edu](mailto:ctiegs@admin.nmt.edu))

#### Contributing Editors:

Kathleen Hedges ([khedges@admin.nmt.edu](mailto:khedges@admin.nmt.edu))  
Valerie Kimble ([vkimble@admin.nmt.edu](mailto:vkimble@admin.nmt.edu))

#### Copy Editor:

Kathleen Hedges ([khedges@admin.nmt.edu](mailto:khedges@admin.nmt.edu))

#### Graphic Designer:

Edie Steinhoff ([esteinhoff@admin.nmt.edu](mailto:esteinhoff@admin.nmt.edu))

## IRIS/PASSCAL Instrument Center

*by Denise Elvrum (BS, basic sci., 98)*

You’ve probably seen the IRIS/PASSCAL Instrument Center mentioned in Tech publications and news releases. But do you know what it is and what the people who work there do?

IRIS stands for Incorporated Research Institutions for Seismology. It is a non-profit consortium of universities and schools conducting research in seismology, funded primarily through the National Science Foundation (NSF). New Mexico Tech is the recipient of funding to provide, manage and support the PASSCAL instrument center, as well as provide support for other projects managed by IRIS.

Program for Array Seismic Studies of the Continental Lithosphere (PASSCAL) is a NSF-sponsored facility whose primary purpose is to provide seismic equipment to field researchers in seismology.

Any seismologist can request to use PASSCAL equipment. The seismometers (and some lucky technicians!) are sent all over the world to set up experiments. Once an experiment is finished, the equipment is shipped back to Tech and checked to make sure it is still functioning properly. Then it is shipped out again to another exotic locale. The data collected during each experiment is freely available to the general and scientific public via the Data Management Center managed by IRIS (in Seattle).

PASSCAL supports approximately 60 experiments each year, spanning every continent. Examples of areas studied by PASSCAL-supported researchers include: Antarctica, Africa, Montserrat, China, Northern Iraq, and generally the whole world!

Altogether, the IRIS/PASSCAL site on the New Mexico Tech campus has 27 full-time Tech employees, including the following Tech alumni, as well as about six students per semester.

**Brian Bonnet** (B.S., mech. engr., 07), is currently on his first field experience, in Antarctica.

**Lloyd Carothers** (B.S., comp. sci., 06), who was employed as a student intern from 2001 to 2004, has been a full-time employee since graduating. He is one of the lucky ones who gets sent out into the field and has visited such places as Costa Rica, Taiwan, Israel, Kyrgyzstan, Montserrat, as well as locations within the US.

**Denise Elvrum** (BS, basic sciences, 98). Since the fall of 2005, I have been the permit coordinator for the USArray EarthScope Project, designed with installing and monitoring a grid of seismic stations across the country. You can follow

our progress at [www.earthscope.org](http://www.earthscope.org).

**Cheryl Etsitty** (BS, basic sci., 03; BS, mech. engr. 07), has been permanently employed as the office/technical coordinator since 2003. Prior to that, she was a student employee for three years.

**Mike Fort** (BS, engr. Sci., 90; MS, hydrology, 92), is the associate director of PASSCAL. In his eight years at PASSCAL, he has traveled the world.

**Michael Johnson** (BS, basic sci., 04), is currently working on a BS in physics. Michael has been a full-time IRIS/PASSCAL employee for nearly two years, coming from NRAO. He is a hardware engineer and is involved in testing equipment prior to field deployment.

Next time you’re on the Tech campus, take the opportunity to visit IRIS/PASSCAL.

## Passings

For more information, please see <http://www.nmt.edu/mainpage/obituaries/homepage.html>. Information that arrived after Feb. 8 will appear in the next Gold Pan.

**Robert O. Anderson** passed away on Dec. 2, 2007, at his home in Roswell. He had an international reputation as a petroleum executive, rancher, environmentalist, diplomat, and civic leader. He received numerous awards for his tireless efforts in support of public, charitable, and political affairs.

Anderson served on the Board of Regents of New Mexico Tech from 1987 to 1992. In 1994, he was given the position of Distinguished Professor of Petroleum Engineering at New Mexico Tech. He was awarded the degree of Honorary Doctor of Petroleum Engineering at Commencement ceremonies in 2000.

**Lawrence Fisher**, Class of 1937, passed away in the Fall of 2007 at his home in Fairview, Ill., following a long career in the mining industry.

**Sarah Austin (Sallie) Smith**, 91, passed away on Dec. 8, 2007, in Alhambra, Calif. She was a longtime member of the Tech and Socorro communities and widow of Prof. Clay T. Smith, longtime professor of geology.

Commemorative donations may be made to the Clay T. and Sallie Smith Student Fund. Checks may be sent to the Advancement Office, and donors should write the name of the fund on the memo line.

## Alumni Survey/Sign-up

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

News you’d like to share with fellow alumni through Gold Pan’s “People You Know”;

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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 benefits and benefits would you like from your alumni association? \_\_\_\_\_

### Here are my Alumni Association dues

Annual Alumni Association Dues enclosed (\$30)  
 Lifetime membership dues enclosed (\$500/individual or \$875/alumni couple)

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

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

## PEOPLE YOU KNOW

[Note: This column includes news received up till Feb. 7, 2008. News received after that will be in the next Gold Pan.]

### 1960s

**Joe P. Martinez** (BS, math, 62) has stepped into a new career. He writes, "I broke into community theatre by accident, in 1994. They needed a guitar player for one scene but also put me into a character role, and to my amazement, I discovered I liked it.



I have been in Shakespearean plays, comedies, etc. since then. Unfortunately community theatre does not pay its actors, so it's all for the love of the art!" Joe's most recent role was that of Galileo in the Bertolt Brecht play of the same name, at the Explora Theater in Albuquerque in January 2008.

**Chia-Li Wei** (BS, metallurgical engr., 69) was promoted to chief technology officer of AXT, Inc., a leading manufacturer of compound semiconductor substrates. Wei joined AXT in May 2007 as senior director of technology. He is located at AXT's manufacturing facility in Beijing.

### 1970s

**Patrick A. Rodriquez** (BS, metallurgical engr., 70) was named the recipient of the 2007 Department of Defense George Linsteadt Technology Transfer Achievement Award. The award recognizes the efforts of individuals who are involved in technology transfer from DOD to industry. Rodriquez is Director of the Technology Transfer Support Group of the Air Force Research Laboratory's Space Vehicles Directorate.

**Dr. Lawrence C. Allen III** (BGS, 76) is working as a project engineer, building flyable computer systems for military and space applications for GE Fanuc Embedded Systems. He lives in Albuquerque.

**Dr. Van D. Romero** (BS, physics, 77; MS, physics, 79) has been appointed to the board of directors of the Center of Excellence for Hazardous Materials Management in Carlsbad, N.M. The center, a nonprofit organization established in 2004, is probably best known for its research and development in turning algae into oil. Romero is the vice president for research and economic development at New Mexico Tech.

### 1980s

**John Yater** (BS, petr. engr., 82; BS, geology, 82) opened his own business, Mustang Springs Oil, LLC, offering prospect analysis and geologic engineering consulting in June 2007.

**Jeff Corey** (BS, petr. engr., Dec. 83) writes, "After living abroad for most of the past 15 years (in Dubai and Venezuela), my family and I returned to the Southwest last summer. I am working as the asset development manager for ConocoPhillips' San Juan Business Unit. I work in Farmington, N.M., and live in Durango, Colo. This May will be my 25-year anniversary with ConocoPhillips! My wife, Caroline, and I love living in Durango – certainly a lot to do! Unfortunately, a knee injury on my third day skiing this year has wrecked my ski season, but I'm hoping it is just a temporary setback. Our 19-year-old son, Alex, is following me into the oil industry, studying petroleum engineering at that traitor

school, Colorado School of Mines! Our 17-year-old daughter, Tatiana, is a junior at Durango High School and is hoping to attend either Duke or Rice once she graduates."

**Diane Y. Hattler** (BS, technical communication, 85; BS, geology, 85) writes, "I just became a licensed professional counselor (LPC) in Virginia. I am working as a counselor for girls who are in the foster care program and were abused at their home and can no longer live there. It is a long way from my geology days in Nevada, and although I miss being a geologist, I love working with these girls. If anyone from my Tech days would like to get in touch, my email is [dhattler@comcast.net](mailto:dhattler@comcast.net)."

**Donald M. Pearl** (MS, math, 85) is now academic vice president at Sauk Valley Community College in Dixon, Ill. **Zachary R. Waltz** (BS, metallurgical engr., 87) works for IBM's Global Business Services as a business process improvement consultant. He lives in Arlington, Va.

### 1990s

**Garret Ross** (BS, geological engr., 90; MS, metallurgical engr. 92) writes, "I left my position as water operations group chief with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's Albuquerque Area Office in September 2007 to be a stay-at-home dad with our 18-month-old daughter and 7-year-old son. My wife, **Gina (Age) Ross** (BS, 92, mineral engr.), has returned to work as a slopes engineer with Freeport-McMoRan's Sierita Operations south of Tucson, Arizona. Everyone's fine and the weather is currently great, but I am kind of dreading the summer heat!"

**Dennis Reda** (BS, math, 91; MS, math, 94) writes, "In November of 2007, my wife Clare and I finally left the rustic and slow life in Ridgecrest, Calif., for the urban chaos of Denver, Colo. I'm working now at Raytheon after 14 years at the Department of Defense. Jumping to private industry after so much time in civil service has turned out to be a good move so far, and we're looking forward to all the amenities of living in a big city. I hope to get back in touch with old friends in the area, since I hear that there are a lot of Tech alumni around here. Anyone is welcome to drop me an email at [dmreda@aol.com](mailto:dmreda@aol.com). Cheers!"

**Stephen Smoogen** (BS, astrophysics, 94) wrote in to update some out-of-date information in the last *Gold Pan*. He writes that he worked at Red Hat, Inc., from 1997 to 2001, when he left to take an extended vacation. That ended on September 11, and he went to work for Los Alamos National Laboratories in various computer security groups. After finding too many disk drives behind coffee machines, he left to work for Sandia National Laboratories as a contractor, and then to the University of New Mexico to focus on getting a Ph.D. He hopes, if he gets the Ph.D., to be able to return to NMT to teach, "even if it's only on a soapbox outside of the Cap."

**Roslynd Ellvinger** (BS, biology, 97) writes, "I'm living in Santa Fe with my three beautiful kids, Sam, 9, Katelynn, 5, and Zoe, 3, and my significant other, Gene, and his kids, Amber, 12, and Diego, 7. We are a pretty big and pretty busy family! I am certified as a specialist in cytogenetics and worked in a cancer cytogenetics lab for eight years. Recently I made a pretty big career move and now work at New Mexico Department of Public Safety in the Crime Lab, DNA unit. I love my new job!"

### 2000s

**Michael Smith** (BS, petroleum engr., 07) is working in Bakersfield, Calif., as a production engineer for Chevron.

## Alumni Association Extends Thanks

The New Mexico Tech Alumni Association and the New Mexico Tech Student Chapter, Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE) would like to thank **Steve Trujillo** (BS, petroleum engr., 83) and Samson, Inc. for generous support of the New Mexico Tech Alumni Reception at this November's annual SPE convention in Anaheim. Steve is a member of New Mexico Tech's Petroleum Industry Advisory Board.

## Tech Alumni Collaborate in Comet-Quest

by Carol Lynn Tiegs

They never actually met at New Mexico Tech, but 20-plus years after graduation, **Michael Zolensky** (B.S., geol., 77) and **Scott Sandford** (B.S., math and physics, 78) are in a collaborative relationship that is likely to span their professional careers.

Since the mid-1990s, Mike, based at NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston, and Scott, based at NASA's Ames Research Center in the Silicon Valley, have been working together as co-investigators on NASA's Stardust Comet Sample Return Mission. The mission involved sending a spacecraft to Comet 81P/Wild2 to capture material from the cloud of dust and gas surrounding the comet's nucleus and return it to Earth for study. The mission successfully returned the first-ever samples of a comet coma to Earth two years ago. Mike is now managing those samples at the Johnson Space Center.

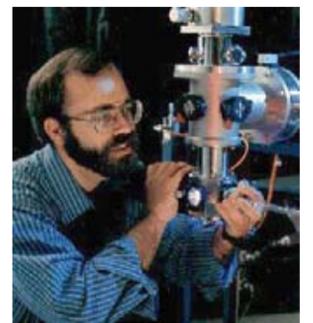
While each of the two had unique mission responsibilities, Scott said, "because of our similar backgrounds, experience, and interests, we frequently have ended up working closely together on many Stardust tasks.

"Mike and I had already worked with each other prior to the Stardust Mission," Scott said. "We both share a major scientific interest in extraterrestrial materials, and independently ended up in the field of meteoritics."

In the early 1980s, Scott was one of the first students to do a Ph.D. thesis studying interplanetary dust particles NASA was beginning to collect in the stratosphere. About this time, Mike became cosmic dust curator at Johnson Space Center. He and Scott have been in frequent contact on a variety of scientific efforts involving cosmic dust samples, meteorites and other issues associated with extraterrestrial samples ever since.



Michael Zolensky



Scott Sandford

Did a degree from New Mexico Tech help in their careers?

"At Tech I had great teachers in great small classes," said Mike. "Even though I was an undergraduate, I got to take some graduate classes that were among the best classes I ever had. Graduate schools recognized how good Tech students were, and that made entry into graduate programs a heck of a lot easier."

Scott's one gripe is that "the male/female ratio was badly lopsided when Mike and I were there." But, he said, "the training I received at Tech (both classroom learning and working research) equipped me with the tools I needed to get involved in a fun and productive career in fundamental research. I'd just note that I am frequently gratified to find out what a great reputation New Mexico Tech has in the scientific community."

It's clear that Scott and Mike's collaboration and friendship are a long-term proposition, with humor as a primary ingredient.

"We have actually worked well together," said Mike. "That's probably because we are now both parents of young children and, so, are used to putting up with infantile behavior and sudden irrational tantrums."

"Mike and I work well together," echoed Scott." At this point, I have pretty much given up on the possibility that I will ever be rid of Mike and have resigned myself to the likelihood that he and I will be interacting productively in one way or another for the rest of our scientific careers. Should be fun!"

For more information on Scott, Mike and the Stardust Mission see the following websites:

<http://ares.jsc.nasa.gov/People/zolensky.html>

<http://web99.arc.nasa.gov/~astrochm/scottbio.html>

<http://stardust.jpl.nasa.gov/home/index.html>

## Calendar of Events

### Tuesday, February 26, 2008

**Salt Lake City Area Alumni Reception**, in conjunction with Society of Mineral Engineers Annual Meeting. Squatters Pub Brewery, 147 W. Broadway, Salt Lake City. Sponsored by Boart Longyear Drilling Services

### Friday, April 11

**Dallas/Fort Worth Alumni Party**, details TBD  
Contact Lisa Noell, [lisa.noell@gmail.com](mailto:lisa.noell@gmail.com), or 817.251.4637

### Thursday, April 24

**Socorro Alumni Party** 6 p.m., at the home of Navid Mojtabai, 521 Western Ave.  
Featuring a wine tasting conducted by Dr. Bill Stone.

### Monday, June 16

**Tucson-area Alumni Event**, details TBD

### Tuesday, June 17

**Phoenix-area Alumni Event**, details TBD

### Tuesday, September 23

**Nevada Alumni Event** in conjunction with the Mine Expo in Las Vegas  
Details TBD

### Tuesday, September 30

**Denver-area Alumni Event** in connection with Society of Petroleum Engineers annual ACTE Details TBD

### October 8

Houston-area alumni event in connection with Geological Association of American annual conference, details TBD

### Oct. 24 - 25, 2008

**49ers Celebration and Alumni Homecoming**, Socorro



## Turn your Travel into Alumni Association Support

Book your personal and business travel through our new travel website, [www.ytbtravel.com/nmtalumni](http://www.ytbtravel.com/nmtalumni). Every time you do, your New Mexico Tech Alumni Association receives a portion of the travel commissions. You get the same low rates offered by other travel websites, while helping to support the New Mexico Tech Alumni Association.

YTB works with numerous colleges, universities and other organizations to provide both the best in travel rates and arrangements, and organizational funding support. Since 2001, the publicly traded travel program (YTBL.PK) has partnered with the biggest names in travel for airline, cruise line, lodging, car rental and vacation package services.

Through their group travel services, YTB will also be assisting us in our upcoming alumni travel adventures, including our 2009 Solar Eclipse cruise and 2010 cruise on the Nile. Watch for more details on both these travel adventures.

Next time you book travel online – including a trip to Socorro for 49ers 2008 - think [www.ytbtravel.com/nmtalumni](http://www.ytbtravel.com/nmtalumni).

## Alumni Chapter News

### Albuquerque Chapter

Nearly a dozen alumni were on hand on Thursday, Jan. 24, at Explora Theater to cheer on Joe Martinez (B.S., math, 62) in his role as Galileo in the Bertolt Brecht play of the same name. Prior to the performance, alumni met



at High Noon restaurant to renew old acquaintances and forge new ones.

### Colorado Chapter

February 1 marked the founding of the Colorado Alumni Chapter in an event at Denver's Adams Mark Hotel, with alumni from Fort Collins to Pueblo in attendance. The chapter's Steering Committee includes Christian Brown, 07; Russ Erbes, 69; Jayme Margolin, 06; Dennis Reda, 91, 95; and Bob Winn, 83. Plans are underway for a chapter event on May 3. For details, watch the alumni website. If you'd like to get involved, contact Russ Erbes at [rerbes@kleinfelder.com](mailto:rerbes@kleinfelder.com).

### Chapter Formation

Plans are underway for a new Tech alumni chapter in the Dallas/Fort Worth area, with a first event set for Friday, April 11. To get involved, contact Lisa Noell (90) at [lisa.noell@gmail.com](mailto:lisa.noell@gmail.com).

### Michaella

**Gorospe (06)** is interested in establishing a chapter in the Grants/Gallup, New Mexico area. To get involved, contact her at [mgorospe@peabodyenergy.com](mailto:mgorospe@peabodyenergy.com).



If you have interest in establishing an alumni chapter in your area, contact Carol Lynn Tiegs at [ctiegs@admin.nmt.edu](mailto:ctiegs@admin.nmt.edu).

## Nominations Open for Distinguished Alumni Award

The Distinguished Alumni Awards are the highest honor bestowed by the New Mexico Tech Alumni Association. They are presented to the most prestigious graduates of New Mexico Tech for their professional achievements, contributions to society, and support of New Mexico Tech. Awards are presented annually at commencement by the president of the Alumni Association, when graduates are welcomed into the Alumni Association.

Who determines who receives these awards? You, the alumni of New Mexico Tech.

*Please send your award nominations no later than April 15* to Carol Lynn Tiegs at [ctiegs@admin.nmt.edu](mailto:ctiegs@admin.nmt.edu), or at Office for Advancement, 801 Leroy Place, Socorro, NM 87801.

Award criteria are as follows:

### Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award:

This award honors distinguished alumni who have attained extraordinary distinction in their chosen professional fields and personal endeavors.

**Distinguished Service Award:** This award recognizes alumni or friends of New Mexico Tech whose meritorious contributions, through volunteer or active participation, have significantly enhanced the influence and reputation of the institute.

### Nomination Form

Nominee: \_\_\_\_\_

Degree and year of graduation (if known): \_\_\_\_\_

Contact information for nominee (if known): \_\_\_\_\_

How this nominee meets award criteria: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominated by: \_\_\_\_\_

For information on the Distinguished Alumni Awards and past recipients see: [www.nmt.edu/alum\\_fr/dist.html](http://www.nmt.edu/alum_fr/dist.html).



**801 Leroy Place  
Socorro, NM 87801**

*Address Service Requested*