

## Letter from the President

As I take up the reins of office for the New Mexico Tech Alumni Association, I would like to thank outgoing president Geza Keller for his outstanding service the last couple of years. I would also like to thank Carol Lynn Tiegs for her service to the Alumni Association during the same time. Thanks to their energy and vision, the Alumni Association is on much more solid footing and is ready to launch into a new era of service to Tech.



Brett Wendt, President  
New Mexico Tech Alumni Association

I would also like to thank all of the board members listed on page 4 for their time, efforts, and input. All Tech alumni are busy people, and I appreciate these people taking the time to make the Alumni Association an active organization.

I would also like to thank the board members who have served and retired from the board.

At the Annual General Meeting during 49ers, on October 25, we agreed that the Alumni Association should have, as one of its priorities, the establishment of an endowment to fund association activities.

The Alumni Association Endowment is intended to provide the association with day-to-day operating funds. These monies will provide a means of developing the services outlined in the one year fiscal plan (which will develop into a three year plan). Currently, the operating funds of the Alumni Association are fully at the discretion of the school budget and the Office for Advancement. Establishing an Alumni Association Endowment would provide the association some independence from yearly budget cycles and gives us the ability to make long term promises on services to the alumni.

In conclusion, I would like to thank all alumni who are active participants in the Alumni Association and urge more of you to attend our activities, join, and participate.

*A Houston resident, Brett Wendt is a petrophysicist for ConocoPhillips and a member of New Mexico Tech's Petroleum Department Industry Advisory Board.*

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## Tech on TV

**W**HY ISN'T NEW MEXICO TECH MORE FAMOUS, ALUMNI OFTEN ASK. WATCH YOUR LOCAL TV LISTINGS. IT'S ABOUT TO BECOME SO!

TV shows and crews have discovered Tech's exceptional beauty and unique setting. Science shows, such as those on the Discovery Channel and National Geographic, have discovered that some Tech professors are sources of interesting information and research. Starting in January, a channel called TruTV will begin running the series *Man vs. Cartoon*. The show re-stages many of the stunts that Wile E. Coyote undertook to catch that rascally roadrunner. If Wile E. had had a REAL engineering education, asks the show, could he have actually caught the roadrunner? Tech's EMRTC is ideally suited for all the stunts that involve the Acme Company's TNT. The series was filmed on campus during the summer of 2008.

*Mythbusters'* cast and crew spent a week in Socorro in October, filming tests of two myths. The cast filmed a high-speed collision and detonated a huge explosion as part of their mythbusting.

New Mexico Tech student Kate Theisen was featured in a documentary film from Disney Studios called *Blow Up U*, which chronicles the recruitment, training, and performance of the youngest 15-member crew ever to sail the Transpacific Yacht Race. Theisen, an astrophysics major, spent part of her youth living with her parents on boats in various East Coast ports.

Tech's Magdalena Ridge Observatory will be used as a set for the TV program "Blow Up U," a reality series

set at New Mexico Tech that begins filming in early 2009.

In addition:

*Good Morning America* filmed a segment at the university's training facility in Playas in September.

*Jeopardy!* aired video clues filmed in Socorro on Tuesday, Oct. 14.

A new Discovery Channel show, "*Belly of the Beast*" filmed two explosions and several interviews about tank armor in October.

KNME, Albuquerque's public television channel, has held two Science Cafés on campus.

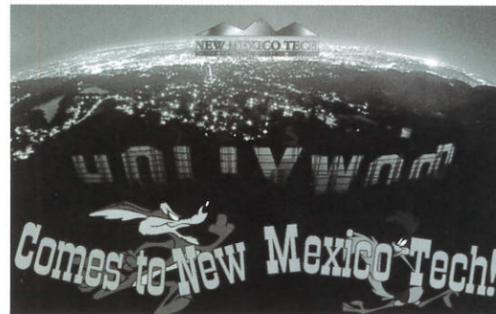
These events give members of the public a chance to meet and ask questions of scientists who are outstanding in their fields. A third Science Café at the New Mexico Museum of Natural History featured Dr. Rick Aster.

Tech is about to become a star on the Internet, too!

Tech now has its own YouTube page. Check out

[www.youtube.com/nmimt](http://www.youtube.com/nmimt). More departments and organizations are planning to join with their own videos.

YOUiversity, a company that produces videos geared toward prospective students, has made a video about Tech that should hit the Internet in January. It includes basic facts about admissions, tuition, faculty-to-student ratio and degrees offered, in addition to more details about Tech's strengths.



## Searching for Snow

As many of you have already heard, my tenure with New Mexico Tech as assistant director for advancement ended on 49ers weekend and I am now living in Denver.

It was a big decision to return to my long-time home, as I am truly going to miss all you wonderful Tech alumni, your terrific tales, and the growth taking place in the New Mexico Tech Alumni Association. And I'm thrilled to have been named an honorary alumna and member of the Alumni Association's Colorado Chapter. At the same time it's great to be drawn back by closeness to family, exciting new career opportunity, and lots of snow.

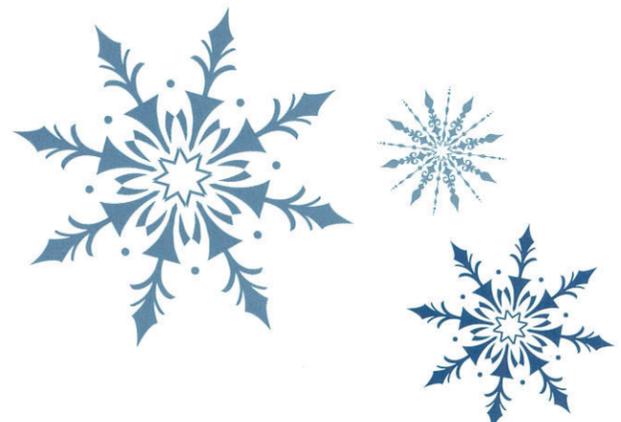
If you're coming through Denver or just want to stay in touch I'd enjoy hearing from you at carollynnt@msn.com.

It's been a joy and a privilege to work at Tech. Keep that Alumni Association growing!

Best wishes,  
Carol Lynn Tiegs



Russ & Mina Erbes, Carol Lynn Tiegs and Dr. Ricardo Maestas at the Alumni Dinner at the Tripp's.



# 49ers Celebration and Alumni Homecoming 2008, Oct. 24 – 26

Terrific weather and lots of fun were the two big features of this year's 49ers! So were the annual SPE Golf Tournament and a Friday dinner at the Cap with the rugby club.



The 49ers Parade saluted cartoons with the theme: "I Shoulda Made a Left at Albuquerque." [Get it? If Bugs Bunny had made that left he always talked about, he would have wound up in Beautiful Socorro!]



The parade entry from Mechanical Engineering was an air cannon that shot candy.



Many thanks to Don (Class of 69) and Rosie Tripp for graciously opening their home for an alumni reception on Thursday night (above).

Below: Kathy Grossman and Tom Dillon (76).



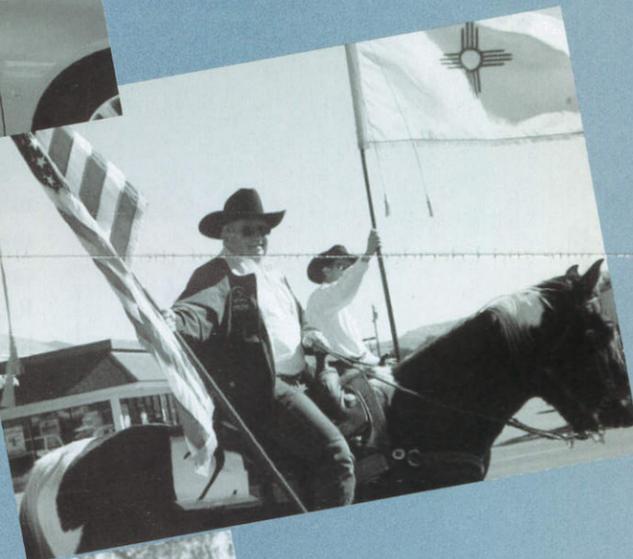
See you next year,  
Oct. 23, 24, and 25, 2009!



Wile E. Coyote (as portrayed by Van Romero, Classes of 77 and 79) finally caught that Roadrunner! That's the Roadrunner roasting on a spit. R&ED's float won the Grand Award.



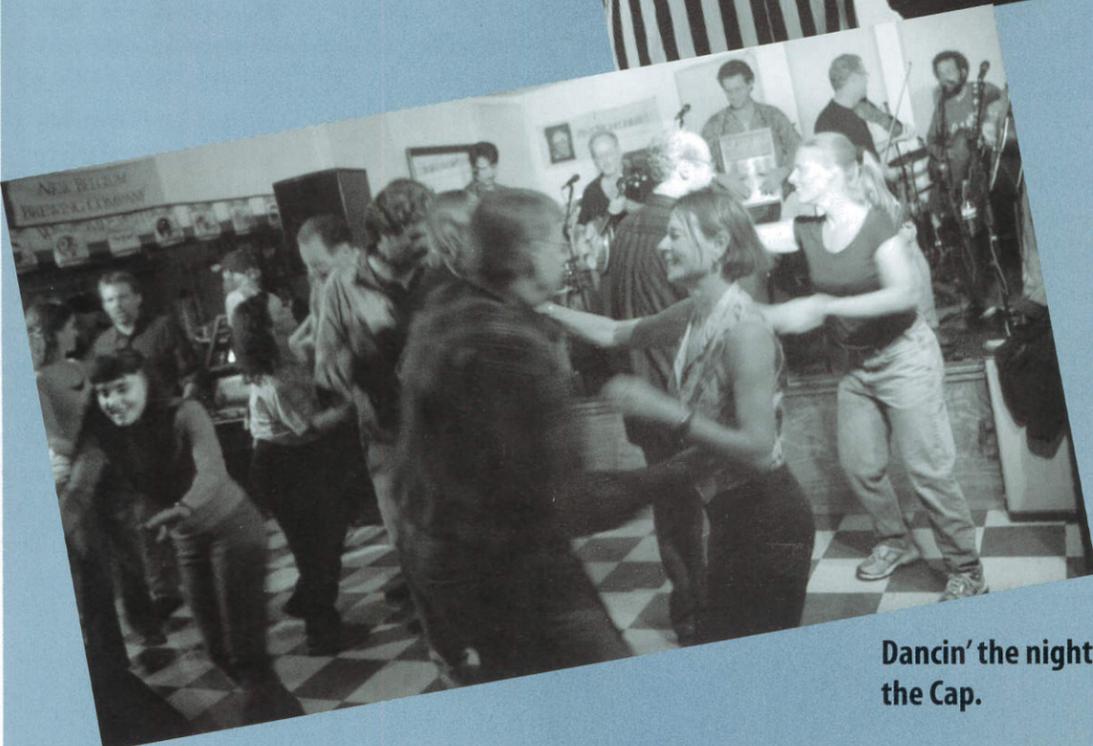
Russ Erbes (at window, Class of 69) and Bob Winn (driving, Class of 83) represented the Colorado Alumni Chapter in the parade. Appropriately, they are on the "steering" committee!



Alumni enjoyed a picnic in Water Canyon, followed by a tour of Magdalena Ridge Observatory.



The Pharaohs of Fun won first place in the float competition: Judy Lovelace, Greg Miller, and Theresa Apodaca.



Dancin' the night away at the Cap.

## People You Know

*Note: This column covers information received from August to late October 2008. If your news was sent in after that, it should appear in the next issue.*

### 1960s

**Ken Grace** (65, MS, geology) brought us up-to-date on his doings since graduation. He writes, "I joined Kennecott's Canadian office in Toronto from where, a year-and-a-half later, they sent me to Africa to open up an office in Namibia. Subsequently, I was moved to Johannesburg in South Africa, then to Vancouver, and from there to Miami, Florida (Kennecott's Caribbean and Latin American base). I parted from Kennecott in 1978 and joined a mining consulting group in Denver. This group moved me to Toronto in 1986 (full circle!)"

"In 1988, some of my colleagues and I split off to form our own consulting company (Micon International), where I stayed until retiring from full-time work in 2001. At that point, my wife and I decided to move out of the big city to the shores of Lake Simcoe, 60 miles north of Toronto. I've been here ever since. I keep my body and brain active by undertaking (very selectively!) the occasional consulting assignment."

"On a personal note, I view my life as having been extremely satisfying. My work as a geological engineer has taken me to the far corners of the Earth, all of the continents (except Antarctica), from two miles below the Earth's surface in a South African gold mine to 16,000 feet above sea level in the high Andes."

"We continue to travel widely. Healthwise, after extensive cardiac surgery last Christmas, I feel better than I have in years."

### 1970s

**Barbara Hynd** (73, BS, basic sciences), writes, "After teaching for several years in Clint, Texas, I returned to my hometown of Cleveland, Ohio, in 1981. I was employed by Leaseway (now Penske Logistics) where I worked my way up from key puncher to computer operator, and finally systems programmer until 1999. In 2000 I went back to my first love, teaching, at a technical school for dental and medical assistants. I still get a thrill when one of my former students calls to thank me for being tough."

"I still miss New Mexico and would welcome mail at nmimt73@yahoo.com. By the way, I still answer to the nickname Rab."

### 1980s

**Mark Thacker** (85, BS, geology; 88, MS, geochemistry) reports, "I have been a staff member at Los Alamos National Laboratory supporting the Waste and Environmental Services Program since July 2002. I came back to New Mexico in 1993 after being based for seven years out of Oak Ridge, Tenn., where I worked throughout the country consulting for DOD and DOE. Working in Albuquerque, I supported environmental programs at Kirtland AFB and Sandia National Laboratory as a consultant."

"Life in northern New Mexico is awesome but I am glad I worked around the U.S. before coming back to where I belong. I certainly don't miss the travel or hectic life of a consultant; it's much better to be the client. Home during the week is Los Alamos but my real home is Chama, N.M., a hundred miles north and a world away from the national lab. I have been there three years, renovating a big old house on Main Street for the last two years. Weekends are filled with mountain biking, road biking, dirt biking, cross country skiing, and visitors to the Chama Inn. I stay in contact with a lot of great friends I made at Tech and would like to hear from other I have lost contact with, at mthacker@lanl.gov. Life is very good."

### 1990s

**Stephen Cook** (93, BS, physics) writes, "I'm living in Albuquerque with my wife Janet and our two sons: Jonah, 10, and Sterling, 2. Since graduating, I have worked in several positions, including as a VLBA correlator operator at NRAO, a contractor at AFOTEC and Sandia Labs, and a product manager for high speed computer network products. I also earned my MBA from UNM in 2006. For the past few years I've been an entrepreneur running a few Internet sites such as CheatCodes.com and BidNip.com (recently sold). I try to keep my website updated at www.stevecook.net."

**Dr. Steven Jainxin Wang** (97, chemistry) is currently the chief physicist and manager of medical physics at the Cancer Institute of St. John's Hospital in Springfield, Ill. After studying chemistry at Tech, he transferred to University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign where he got his doctorate from the Department of Nuclear and Radiology Engineering in 2003. He then moved to the University of Chicago Medical School, where he finished his medical physics residency in 2005, and worked for a consultation group for a short period of time. In his current position at the Cancer Institute, he says, "Our responsibilities include treatment machine calibration and dose verification, treatment planning and verification, new treatment modality investigation, radiation safety and some other tasks. It's busy but fun, especially because our job is directly related to the patient wellbeing and their cancer treatment. In this regard, it's very rewarding work."

Steven recalls, "When I was at NMT, I enjoyed very much the environment and the people in town were very nice folks. I always had good feelings about Socorro and New Mexico."

### 2000s

**Heidi (Stange) Love** (2000, BS, psychology) is now married to Michael Love, a current Tech student who is working at IRIS/PASSCAL. Their daughter, Cassandra, was born in March 2006.

**Suzanne Mills** (04, MS, hydrology) writes, "Last year, I finished a two-year term as a Peace Corps volunteer in Honduras, working on the design and construction of drinking water systems in small rural communities. I also wrote a proposal that won a grant from NOAA to fund the first watershed-scale water quality study of a major river in Cuero y Salado, the Honduran national wildlife refuge. Earlier this year, I moved to Sacramento, Calif. to take a position as a hydrogeologist and water resources planner for Montgomery Watson Harza, an international water and wastewater consulting firm. I have been working on a variety of projects that involve environmental restoration, federal planning and surface water-groundwater conjunctive use management."

## Passings

*Note: The information below covers the period from August to late October 2008. Information received later will appear in a future Gold Pan. Just before press deadline, we received word of the passing of David Northrop (88, BS, computer science). Further information will appear in a future issue.*

More details are available at [www.nmt.edu/mainpage/obituaries/2008.2.html](http://www.nmt.edu/mainpage/obituaries/2008.2.html)

**Linda Anne Lewis Ewing**, a 1971 alumna, passed away on June 27, 2008, at the age of 60.

She found geology as a profession at Trinity University and finished her degree in 1971 at New Mexico Tech. After working in the petroleum industry, she returned to San Antonio in 1980 and became a consulting geophysicist. She married Dr. Thomas E. Ewing in 1984, and he joined her 'family enterprise.' Thomas is also a New Mexico Tech alum, having earned his master's in geochemistry in 1977. Together, they built Frontera Exploration Consultants, and hosted one of the first computer seismic workstations in San Antonio. She retired just last year, nine years into her struggle with breast cancer.

**Jane Kuellmer** age 81, passed away on September 12, 2008. She was the widow of Fred Kuellmer, longtime professor of geology and administrator at New Mexico Tech.

Jane was born on June 23, 1927 in Flossmoor, Ill. She received her bachelor's degree in 1950 from the University of Chicago. In 1950, Jane moved to Socorro. She received her teacher's certificate in 1973 from New Mexico Tech. She was a licensed insurance agent, served on Governor King's Commission on Aging, and was active in the Episcopal Church and many other Socorro organizations.

**Dr. John Peslak, Jr.** 56, a 1967 alumnus and retired head of the Department of Chemistry and Physics at Hardin-Simmons University, died Sunday, August 11, 2002. *Gold Pan* has just received word of his passing. After graduation from the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology, Dr. Peslak, a native of New Jersey, earned his master of science (1969) and doctoral (1971) degrees from the University of Connecticut.

He began his career at Hardin-Simmons in 1978, and eventually received many teaching honors, including the professor of the year award. Dr. Peslak was also an accomplished freelance nature photographer.

**Dr. Bernard Sherman**, professor of mathematics at New Mexico Tech from 1974 to 1984, passed away in February 2008.

Sherman was born in Brooklyn in 1919. He received his bachelor's in physics from Brooklyn College in 1940 and served in the Army from 1943 to 1945. He then did graduate work at John Hopkins and Brown University and earned his master's and Ph.D. in mathematics from Princeton University in 1946 and 1949, respectively.

Sherman worked in the areas of applied mathematics, stochastic processes, and statistics. Before coming to New Mexico Tech, he had worked at Berkeley, UCLA, Westington Research Labs, TRW Systems, and Rocketdyne.

## Alumni Board Members

**Louise Chamberlin** (BS, basic sciences, '67; MST '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.

**Tom Dillon** (BS, ceramic engr. '75; BS, metallurgical engr., '76) is vice president with Shaw Environmental and Infrastructure, working on large proposals and programs for the federal government. His home is in Sandy, Utah.

**Steve Dixon** (BS, chemistry, '75) is manager of technical services for the Americas Group of Freeport McMoRan Copper & Gold. He is involved in the Victor Saracini Endowment at New Mexico Tech.

**John Dowdle** (BS, math, '60) retired as a senior vice president after 30 years with Booz-Allen & Hamilton, where he also served six years on the board of directors. He is currently a partner in NODO Services, Inc., a management consulting practice focused on logistics and strategic planning.

**Russ Erbes** (BS, physics, '69) is chief technical officer for Kleinfelder, Inc., responsible for the technical adequacy and quality of its consulting service, including career development for Kleinfelder's technical personnel.

**Linda Gonzales** (BS, math, '65) has taught beginning computers in Tech's Community College, and teaches beginning computer classes for Literacy of Socorro. She is also president of the Socorro Chapter, American Association of University Women.

**Charles Goodman** ('74, BS, mining and petroleum engr.) is the head of Kokopelli Santa Fe Real Estate & Property Management, has a financial consulting practice at Morgan Stanley, and is a partner in Three Forks Resources, LLC.

**Geza Keller** (BS, 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. He lives in Carlsbad, Calif.

**Shasta Marrero**, president of the Graduate Student Association (GSA), is completing her M.S. in hydrology and plans to continue in a Ph.D. program at Tech. She received her B.S. from University of Wisconsin-Madison.

**Dylan Merrigan** is 2008-2009 president of the Student Association.

**Richard Miller** (BS, petr. engr., '67) is an accredited senior appraiser with a specialty in oil and gas property appraisal. In 1978, he founded Richard J. Miller & Associates, Inc. provides oil, gas and geothermal property evaluation services.

**Dr. Navid Mojtabai** (BS, '82, MS, '84, mining engr.) has spent the 17 years teaching at New Mexico Tech and is chair of the Mineral Engineering Department.

**Karla Moore** (BS, basic sciences, '05) is program coordinator for the Advising Resource Center at New Mexico Tech.

**George Schmaltz** received bachelor's degrees in computer science and electrical engineering and a master's degree in engineering management from New Mexico Tech. He currently works in the Washington, D.C. area.

**Paul Shoemaker** (BS, physics '71) holds a master's degree from the University of Texas at Austin. He serves as deputy chief operating officer of Sandia National Laboratories' Nuclear Weapons Strategic Management Unit. Paul has designed and conducted planning processes for many academic institutions, including New Mexico Tech.

**Edie Steinhoff** (BGS, '07) has served as graphic designer at New Mexico Tech since 2001. She also holds a bachelor's degree in fine arts and a master's degree in marketing.

## Giving to New Mexico Tech

The end of the year is the perfect time to think of giving to New Mexico Tech. Some of the funds to keep in mind are:

- Alumni Association Endowment
- Children's Center
- Scholarships in the department of your choice
- David I. Norman Fund
- Marvin Wilkening Fund
- Victor Saracini Fund

Alert alumnus Matt Osielski (2000, BS, TC) called our attention to another way you can benefit New Mexico Tech.

Some companies will match donations of TIME volunteered in service to Tech with a cash donation!

Matt, who works for Qwest in Denver, volunteers to serve on the Alumni Board advising the Technical Communication program.

**Qwest will match Matt's donations of time with donations of cash to the fund or endowment of Matt's choice.**

Matt, of course, chose to have the donations go to a fund that benefits the TC program.

Will your company do the same thing? You might want to ask the office responsible for giving within your corporation.

For more information or a copy of Tech's proof of 501(c)3 status, please call the Advancement Office at 575-835-5525.

**Tech offices will be closed for the holidays after Dec. 23, but checks postmarked by Dec. 31 will be credited for the 2008 tax year.**

To give to a specific fund, please write the name of the fund on the "memo" line of your check.

### Check: Made out to:

New Mexico Tech Annual Fund

### Mail to:

NMT Office for Advancement  
801 Leroy Place  
Socorro, NM 87801-4750  
Telephone: 575-835-5525  
Facsimile: 575-835-5825

annual giving  
2008-09



### GOLD PAN

Alumni Newsletter for:  
New Mexico Institute of Mining & Technology  
New Mexico School of Mines

801 Leroy Place  
Socorro, NM 87801

Return Service Requested

## Coming Events

New Mexico Tech Alumni Association  
(NMTAA)

For information on how to sign up for any of these events, please contact the Alumni Office at 575-835-05525 or alumni@admin.nmt.edu.

### Colorado Chapter Outing

Jan. 4, 2009

Visit to Amazing Jake's Family Fun Center, 1400 South Abliene, Aurora, CO, 80012. Call 303-337-5253 for the best directions from your location.

We will be meeting there to select new officers and steering committee members, plan 2009 chapter activities, and have a great time with friends and families.

Amazing Jake's is an all-indoor fun factory including an interactive game pavilion, go-karts, laser-tag, climbing wall, bumper cars, kiddie rides, mini golf, and all-you-can-eat pizza.

Adults: All rides and buffet, \$20.99

Kids 6 - 12: \$17.99

Kids 3 - 6: \$9.99

Under 3 FREE

Plus full-service bar for adult beverages

### Science Fair in Socorro

Saturday, April 4, 2009

Alumni who are Science Fair judges and alumni in the Socorro area are invited to get together after Science Fair.

### Albuquerque-area Alumni Party

July 2009: Vivian (Gomez) Hairston (BS, psychology, 84) is planning a big reunion of Techies who attended from 1979-1985, around the 4th of July in 2009. Anyone who would like more information should contact Vivian, vivqlc1@msn.com.

49ers Celebration and Alumni  
Homecoming, Socorro  
Oct. 23 - 24, 2009

