

Letter from the President

Dear Fellow Alumni:

Hopefully you have all received the most recent pledge form for New Mexico Tech's Annual Giving Fund Drive. What you may not have noticed is a new fund option which allows you to donate funds to the Alumni Association Endowment Fund. This fund has been established to create



an operating budget for the Alumni Association which will help insulate us from the budget cycles that any state institution has to abide by. Most of you are probably aware of the Alumni Scholarship Fund which is separate and fully endowed. By law, even though the Alumni Association has raised a substantial amount of money over the years for the Scholarship Fund, we can not use or borrow against those funds to meet our operating expenses. So if you are considering giving to Tech I ask that you consider investing in helping us build the tools for you to communicate more efficiently with your *Alma Mater*.

I encourage each of you to share your thoughts with us as we build our future. At this time we are incapable of reaching a large number of our alums due to incomplete or incorrect records so it is difficult for us to ask for your input. Please take the time to give the Office of Advancement a call and give them current phone numbers, emails, and if this has one or two forwarding addresses on it your current address. Hopefully you also have the time to tell us what you would like to change and what you would want to keep the same in terms of your relationship with Tech.

As for changes at Tech, I was reminded once again during 49ers of the vast improvements made to campus since my days as a student. Our alumni breakfast and meeting were held in Fidel Student Services Center, an amazing building with all the resources students need under one roof. Cafeteria, bookstore, post office, Student Association, game room, and all the offices that need to sign forms for students are all in the same building.

Jones Hall is being completely renovated. Student labs for the Chemistry and Materials Engineering departments are being completely replaced with much more up-to-date facilities.

Student Profile: Kaoutar Abbou Oucherif

One of Tech's most outstanding current students came to the university from Morocco.

New Mexico Tech chemical engineering major Kaoutar "Coco" Abbou Oucherif is from Larache, Morocco, a port city south of Tangiers. Coco transferred to Tech from Edmonds Community College near Seattle in the fall of 2007.

Since then, her exceptional academic record and involvement in clubs, research projects, and extracurricular activities have garnered her awards and kudos from professors and students alike.

In the fall of 2008, Coco won a top national honor for her poster presentation at the national conference of the AIChE (American Institute of Chemical Engineering) in Philadelphia. She was also named a Macey Scholar, one of the top honors for Tech students who have brought distinction upon the university.

Abbou Oucherif's prize-winning poster presentation was about suspending single drug crystals in droplets, using microfluidic procedures. During a summer internship, she worked with the process of crystallization, attempting to improve the process of growing crystals in a single droplet of lactose. She presents her research again at a regional competition in Colorado in March.

Her advisor, Dr. Michaelann Tartis, said, "We're so excited for her. I don't think any Tech student has ever done that before." Tartis, a Class of 2002 alumna, is an assistant professor of chemical engineering.

Tartis added, "She's clearly on her way to excelling at grad school and to becoming an excellent researcher. Plus, she's the sweetest person." Coco hopes to pursue a doctorate in chemical engineering.

Soon after arriving at Tech, she resurrected the



Chemical Engineering Car Competing Team, which earned a third-place finish at the regional competition. It did not place in the AIChE National Competition, but this was Tech's first year in the competition. Other members of the Tech team were Josh Hill, Thomas Budner, Tim Schutt and Kaitlin Allen

Abbou Oucherif also was selected to represent New Mexico Tech at the Domenici Public Policy Conference in Las Cruces in August 2008. She is a member of Tau Beta Pi engineering society and the Tech chapter of Society of Women Engineers. She has volunteered for Science Olympiad and Science Fair. She also helps the Student Affairs office as an ambassador for new international students.

International program director Chelsea Buffington, said, "Coco Abbou Oucherif represents the best of what New Mexico Tech has to offer. She is truly one of the most well-rounded students I have encountered at New Mexico Tech."

Outside of Fidel, La Raj Patio has been dismantled, and the whole area north of West Hall is being changed into an attractive outdoor area for students. It will include a new sand volleyball court, to replace the one that was removed from the Athletic Field, to make more room there for rugby and other sports.

Coming soon will be a new Child Care Center. Although this doesn't educate Tech students directly, it serves an important purpose. Students, faculty, and staff with young children will have a reliable and up-to-date place to park them for the day. This can make a huge difference in the ability of parents to get or give an education. It will make it much easier for Tech to recruit young faculty and non-traditional students.

The Child Care Center is not paid for by state funds, so additional donations for this facility are gladly accepted. Just address them to the Advancement Office (address on back page) and write "Child Care Center" in the memo line.

Looking forward to seeing you at commencement May 16 or the next 49ers, Oct. 23, 24, and 25.

Brett Wendt

President, New Mexico Tech Alumni Association

Gold Pan is a production of the Advancement Office at New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology, Socorro, New Mexico 87801.

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New Mexico Tech News Briefs

The following excerpts are from news stories by Thomas Guengerich, New Mexico Tech Public Information Office. For the full story, please visit the website listed at the end of the news item.

Tech Solidifies Partnership with Amarillo College

New Mexico Tech and Amarillo College have received a two-year, \$3.2 million grant for campus equipment and improvements from the U.S. Department of Education's Title V program. With the grant (College Cost Reduction and Access Act Grant), Tech is purchasing equipment for five academic programs, installing wireless Internet service in academic buildings and establishing a transfer program with Amarillo College. The focus is on the departments of Mineral Engineering, Physics, Petroleum Engineering, Materials Engineering and Mechanical Engineering.

Dr. Deidre Hirschfeld, materials engineering professor, said "This should turn out to be a good pipeline of students for New Mexico Tech." She said Amarillo College has a rigorous curriculum for students interested in pursuing engineering degrees. Amarillo College is also a strong Hispanic-serving institution.

Using grant funding, Tech will create a transition center and a transition coordinator to assist Amarillo College students move seamlessly into the Tech campus setting.

www.nmt.edu/mainpage/news/2008/15oct01.html

Tech Observatory Wins NASA Contract to Monitor Lunar Impact

New Mexico Tech has won a small but exclusive contract with NASA to monitor a controlled lunar impact later this year. Tech's Magdalena Ridge Observatory is one of 11 telescopes that will observe, interpret and analyze a mission to look for water on the moon.

www.nmt.edu/mainpage/news/2009/2feb01.html

National Genome Center Sets the Bar for DNA Sequencing

The National Center for Genome Resources announced Friday, Jan. 23, that it has broken the 20 billion DNA sequence barrier for the first time using an Illumina Genome Analyzer. The Center in Santa Fe operates under the auspices of New Mexico Tech.

www.nmt.edu/mainpage/news/2009/23jan01.html

Tech Students Present Astronomy Research at National Conference

Seven New Mexico Tech physics students presented their research at the annual conference of the American Astronomical Society from January 4 to 8. Undergraduates Fred Davies, Krista McCord, Stephanie Moats, and Delia Mocano, along with graduate students Danielle Lucero, Josh Marvil, and Kristina Nyland traveled to Long Beach, Calif., to present their stellar interstellar work.

"We think attending national conferences is an essential learning experience," physics chairman Dr. Dave Westpfahl said. "Students do better if we can start them early on going to conferences."

Four of the students – Marvil, Davies, Moats and Mocanu – completed NRAO internships last summer and presented their research posters at the conference. "It's a real feather in the cap to get an NRAO internship," Westpfahl said.

www.nmt.edu/mainpage/news/2009/7jan01.html

Biology Professor Reiss Gets Grant To Create CSI:DNA Website

New Mexico Tech biology professor Dr. Rebecca Reiss is taking her popular course CSI:DNA to the Internet. The Applera Foundation recently gave



\$35,000 to Reiss to create an interactive web-based course in forensic science. Students will be able to take an online tutorial in forensic science, visit a 3-D virtual interactive crime scene, and collect DNA and other clues. Then, they will go to a 3-D interactive forensic crime lab to test the DNA.

Reiss and computer specialist David Medcalf plan to have a working site open within a year. The target audience is high-school teachers and their

Skeen Library Evolving with Changing Needs of Students

Joseph Skeen Library at New Mexico Tech has smoothly made the transition to the Digital Age, but the evolution continues.

Library Director Owen Ellard and his staff are constantly rethinking library concepts – and the results are astounding. The gate count increased 16.8 percent from September 2007 to September 2008 – from 15,136 visitors to 17,691.

The biggest change in the academic sense is the move towards digital journals. Just six years ago, New Mexico Tech subscribed to 800 journals – all in hard copy form. Now, the library holds

subscriptions to more than 30,000 journals – with only 300 in print. Faculty and students can access these journals from their office, from home or from any location with Internet connection. In coming years, libraries will see more books delivered digitally as well.

"You are witnessing a shift in libraries," Ellard said. "If we are contemplating change, we always ask students their opinion. Before, libraries thought they knew what people needed. We've seen a huge shift away from that to a participatory design."

students, although the site will be open to anyone. www.nmt.edu/mainpage/news/2008/10dec01.html

Johnson's Volcano Research Featured in Nature

New Mexico Tech geophysics professor Dr. Jeffrey Johnson is getting double exposure for his successful volcano field work. His research



in Guatemala is getting attention from the National Geographic Society and the prestigious journal *Nature*.

Johnson is the lead author of an academic paper titled "Long-period earthquakes and co-eruptive dome inflation

seen with particle image velocimetry" published in the November 21 issue of *Nature*.

Johnson, who joined New Mexico Tech's faculty in January 2008, had made a research trip to the Santiaguito volcano in Guatemala in January 2007.

When Johnson and his team returned to Santiaguito in late December 2008, a film crew from National Geographic's show "Wild Chronicles" tagged along to document the work, which is funded by a National Geographic expeditions grant.

www.nmt.edu/mainpage/news/2008/25nov03.html

Newly Christened Asteroid Named for Former Tech Professor, Inventor

An asteroid discovered at Tech in 2003 was recently officially recognized as "174801 Etscorn," in honor of former New Mexico Tech professor Dr. Frank Etscorn.

Astrophysicist Dr. Bill Ryan first found the asteroid using the 14-inch Celestron telescope at Etscorn Campus Observatory. Ryan, who came to New Mexico Tech after Dr. Etscorn left, said he thought naming the asteroid after him would be appropriate.

Etscorn was a psychology professor at New Mexico Tech in 1979 when he seized on a ground-breaking concept. His research led to the invention of the nicotine patch, which he patented and licensed. Also an avid amateur astronomer, Etscorn donated seed money to the campus observatory that allowed the fledgling facility to get started. The observatory was officially christened in April 1993.

www.nmt.edu/mainpage/news/2008/25nov02.html

Tech Chemistry Professor Earns Top International Honor

Three New Mexico Tech professors presented their cancer research at an international assembly of scientists in Greece in mid-October and one came back with a prestigious award.

Dr. Severine Van slambrouck, the newest faculty member in the chemistry department, was one of 10 presenters to earn the Award for Outstanding Achievement. Her lecture on a new theory about the formation of cancer cells drew a standing-room-only crowd, with more than 100 researchers and oncologists.

www.nmt.edu/mainpage/news/2008/30oct02.html

People You Know

This information was received during December 2008 and January 2009. Do you have news for us? Please send it to alumni@admin.nmt.edu.

Dr. Jim Corey, longtime professor of English at New Mexico Tech, and his wife Lonna, celebrated their 50th anniversary on Dec. 27, 2008. As a gift from their children, spouses, and 10 grandchildren, they took a trip to San Juan, Puerto Rico, in February 2009. Their children are: Ray Corey (85, BS, environmental engr.) of Kennewick, Wash.; Jeff Corey (84, BS, petroleum engr.) of Durango, Colo.; Craig Corey (92, BS, environmental engr.) of Albuquerque; Glen Corey of Albuquerque; and Janine Corey of Kalispell, Mont.

1950s

Jim Doty (50, BS, geophysics) recently wrote to us, reminiscing about being a School of Mines student in the years after World War II.

"In those days, everybody took the same courses for the first two years except that mining engineers didn't take quantitative analysis. One day in my sophomore year, I was sitting out in front of Fitch Hall (the dining room was in the basement), and a guy came up and said, 'They're going to offer a course in geophysics.' With my class act, I said, 'What the hell is geophysics?' He said, 'I don't know, but I hear you have to be smarter than hell and they make big money.' I said, 'I'm going to be a geophysicist.'"

"As I recall, when I graduated in 1950, there were about 150-300 students in the School of Mines, and our graduating class was about 50-100. With that class, New Mexico School of Mines was really back in business, and obviously has never even thought about going out of business."

"In my senior year, on Friday, January 13, 1950, I married the love of my life and we never parted. I graduated in May, and we had about 30-40 bucks. I got a job with Shell in August and we embarked on as wonderful a life as anybody could have. Leta and I lived on four continents, I worked on six (over 40 countries). Along the way I picked up an MBA and became a CPA and a registered Professional Geophysicist. I worked as a geophysicist, a management consultant and a computer programmer for a missile motor company. Right now, I am almost 83 and I am working on being a professional golfer. I doubt I'll make it, but, what the hell, I might."

William B. Sayer (54, BS, mineral engr.) writes, "I retired in 1989 from the United States Department of Energy, Albuquerque Operations Office, as director of the Engineering Division. My duties involved the management of the facilities and construction program for nine nationwide sites comprising the DOE nuclear weapons complex. After that retirement, I became an engineering management consultant to several major corporations. In 2005, I retired from consulting and moved to Del Mar, Calif., with my wife."

1980s

Fred Beck (83, BS, metallurgical engr.) writes, "I work on a U. S. Navy submarine launched nuclear weapons program that is 40 years old, and which has plans out till 2046 and beyond! So the job is stable, considering the current recession. I get to travel different places throughout the country, and occasionally to the UK (three times so far in 22 years). My program actually does some testing from time to time out at TERA (now EMRTC) at Tech, (blowing stuff up of course!) and White Sands as well as the Nevada Test Site. I work with a great group of engineers that would be right at home at Tech so, all is very well!"

1990s

Delilah Vega-Walsh (97, BS, psychology) is the new Socorro County manager. Walsh has 12 years experience in banking, most of that time at First State Bank. She served as county assessor for two years in the 1990s. She was also a student member of the New Mexico Tech Board of Regents.

2000s

Enrique Herrera (02, BS, electrical engr.) lives in Rio Rancho and works for Stirling Energy Systems as a controls software engineer. He is working on the control systems firmware for the SunCatcher, a solar power system designed to track the sun, focus solar heat, and convert it to grid-quality electricity. Enrique welcomes everyone to follow him on his twitter account, <https://twitter.com/EnriqueH73>.

Passings

Michael Provenza (right), 56, of Montrose, Colo., passed away on Jan. 30 near Lake City, Colo. Mike was a 1975 graduate in mining engineering, who spent much of his life working as a mining engineer in New Mexico, Colorado, Wyoming, and Kentucky. He was a member of the Rocky Mountain Coal Association and a board member of the New Mexico Mining Association.

He was born Jan. 11, 1953 in Aguilar, Colo., and graduated from Aguilar High School. After graduation from Tech, he married Beverly Thoman on May 24, 1980. Mike's greatest joys came from spending time with his wife and three sons: Anthony, John and Jeff.

New Mexico Tech is grateful that Mike's friends, the Studs intramural baseball team, contributed to the Cooney Mining Club in his memory. Their donations will be used for scholarships and travel benefiting mineral engineering students.

Dr. Victor Vacquier, Sr., passed away on Jan. 11, 2009, in La Jolla, Calif., at the age of 101. Vacquier, a prominent geophysicist, worked at the New Mexico School of Mines from 1953 to 1957. He then left to join Scripps Institute of Oceanography, where he became prominent in mapping the magnetic field of the Earth and providing evidence that led to the acceptance of the theory of plate tectonics.

Dr. Donald Yardley, emeritus professor at the University of Minnesota, taught courses related to mineral exploration there from 1951 to 1984. One of his students, M. J. Fitzgerald, founded a fund in his name at New Mexico Tech to support students interested in ore deposits and mineral exploration.

According to Fitzgerald, "The most important aspects of Don Yardley's teaching were his philosophy of exploration and his emphasis on practical, simple approaches to solving the problems involved."



28+ Yrs of friendship



New Mexico Tech would like to express its gratitude to the "Studs" Intramural softball team for making generous contributions to the Cooney Mining Club in the memory of Mike Provenza.

The donations will be used for scholarships and professional travel for mineral engineering students.

Donations may be made to the same fund by writing "Cooney Mining Club" on the memo line, making the check out to "New Mexico Tech" and mailing the check to:

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

Left: The Studs softball team, taken in the spring of 1974.

Top row, left to right: Dave Graham, Charley Dein, John Crum, Brian Edwards, Gary Parker, John VanDerGeest

Middle row, left to right: Steve Birckett, Rich Tamura, Mickey Shortencarier

Bottom row, left to right: Rick Corbitt, Ray Johnson, Jim Biava

Left to right, photo at left: John Crum, Mickey Shortencarier, Ray Johnson, Rick Corbitt, Craig Spiller, Rich Tamura, Dave Graham, Gary Parker. Photos courtesy of Studs.

Nominations Open for Distinguished Alumni Awards

Your nominations are sought for the Distinguished Alumni Awards, the highest honor bestowed by the New Mexico Tech Alumni Association. They are presented at Commencement to graduates or friends of New Mexico Tech who have distinguished themselves through their professional achievements, contributions to society, and support of New Mexico Tech.

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.

Please send your award nominations (including the basis of why the person you nominate is worthy of the awards) no later than March 30 to Kathy Hedges, KHedges@admin.nmt.edu

or at Office for Advancement, 801 Leroy Place, Socorro, NM 87801. Nominations will be submitted to the Alumni Association Nominating Committee for consideration.

In addition, the Office of Academic Affairs presents the **Distinguished Teaching Award** at Commencement. They welcome nominations from alumni. Emeritus professors and current professors are eligible. Please send your nomination, along with the reasons you think the person deserves the award, to the chair of the committee, Bert Kerr, at kerr@nmt.edu.

Calendar of Coming Events

Check out our Alumni Events page! We have added a Google interactive calendar. www.nmt.edu/mainpage/alumni/alumni-events.html

Thursday, March 12

Las Vegas, Nevada, Alumni Reception

All Las Vegas-area alumni invited!

6 - 8 p.m., at Gordon Biersch Restaurant and Brewery, 3987 Paradise Road, Las Vegas, NV 89169.

We, the Alumni Office, treat you, the alumni, to munchies. No-host bar.

Please RSVP to the Alumni Office at 575-835-5525.

Saturday, April 4

Alumni Science Fair Judges and Socorro-area Alumni.

Volunteer to be a judge, and come to the Alumni Office's get-together afterwards. To volunteer, call 575-835-5678.

Saturday, April 18

Picnic for Colorado Chapter.

For details, contact the Steering Committee: Bob Winn, Russ Erbes, Dennis Reda, Christian Brown, and Jayme Margolin, or call the Alumni Office at 575-835-5525.

May 15 and 16

Class of 1959 Fiftieth Reunion

During Commencement, in Socorro

To attend, contact the Alumni Office at 575-835-5525.

Oct. 23 - 24

49ers Celebration and Alumni Homecoming, Socorro

Parade Theme: NMT: Superstar! Start working on your floats now!

Nov. 13 - 15

Mineral Symposium, Socorro

Will you be in Socorro for the Bureau of Geology's annual Mineral Symposium? The Alumni Office plans to host an alumni reception and get-together during the symposium. Watch for us! Details TBA.

Late May 2011

VINO Y VOLCANOES, PART DEUX

Alumni Louise and Richard Chamberlin are planning a trip to Sicily in late May 2011. Still in planning stages, but great volcanoes and fine wines will be involved.

Vino y Volcanoes! A Trip of the New México Tech Alumni Association March 13 - 22, 2010

Led by: William X. Chávez, Jr.

Professor of Geological Engineering (Class of '76, '77)

Preliminary Itinerary

Day 0: Depart for Chile (overnight flight).

Day 1: Arrive Santiago; continue flights to Puerto Montt. Overnight in Puerto Montt.

Day 2: Lakes Region: visit and hiking at Vicente Perez Rozales National Park; overnight in Puerto Montt.

Day 3: Travel via bus to Pucón; Villarrica Volcano; overnight in Pucón.

Day 4: Hiking and picnic lunch at Villarrica National Park; overnight in Pucón.

Day 5: Travel to coastal city of Concepción; overnight in Concepción. Recommendation: seafood dinner in Conce!

Day 6: Morning flight to Santiago; bus tour of

vineyards between Santiago and Valparaíso/Viña del Mar. Overnight in Valparaíso.

Day 7: Tour of local vineyards; travel to Aconcagua River valley; overnight in Aconcagua area.

Day 8: Return to Santiago via local vineyards; remainder of day for city visits, shopping, wine purchases; farewell dinner. Overnight in Santiago.

Day 9: Santiago city visits, late evening flights home!

To get on mailing list for further information, contact Kathy Hedges, khedges@admin.nmt.edu.



Buy a Belt Buckle!

Genuine copy School of Mines Belt Buckle

Cast bronze

\$30 (includes shipping)

Mail check to:
Advancement Office
801 Leroy Place
Socorro, N.M. 87801

Be sure to put "belt buckle" on the memo line, so we know what to send you!



GOLD PAN

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

801 Leroy Place
Socorro, NM 87801

Return Service Requested