

Letter from the President

I would like to welcome the Class of 2009 in their transition to the Tech alumni family. I met many of the graduating class at Commencement 2009, and they're an intelligent and ambitious group with fantastic potential. It was an honor to address you at the ceremony. Please keep in contact through the Office for Advancement.

I would also like to welcome the China Lake



Chapter to the Alumni Association. They held their first meeting in early May and hope to have many more to come. The Naval Weapons Research Lab and its contractors at China Lake, Calif., have been steady employers of Tech grads.

I invite you to view New Mexico Tech's new web site at www.nmt.edu. Material is being added every day, so please visit.

Special thanks to everyone who has actively participated in the New Mexico Tech Alumni Association as we close another fiscal year. With their help, we are making slow but steady progress and I look forward to sharing our achievements with you at 49ers!

Brett Wendt

President, New Mexico Tech Alumni Association

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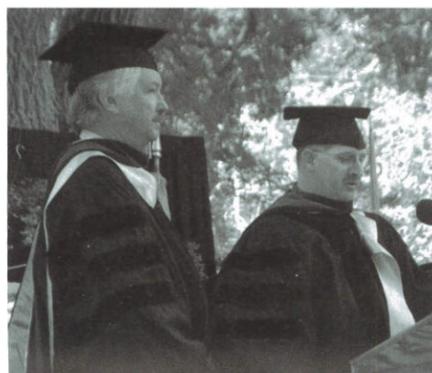
Commencement 2009

Members of the Class of 1959, who gathered on the occasion of their 50th reunion, were C.H. Dunaway, Lawrence Fleming, Jr., Meliton M. Garcia, Kenneth H. Jones, Alvis McDonald, and Lee Andrews.



Dr. William Wilkinson, Distinguished Service Award

The New Mexico Tech Alumni Association presented its Distinguished Service Award to **Dr. William Wilkinson**, an alumnus who helped bring to fruition a major donation from Freeport-McMoRan to the Mineral Engineering Department. Freeport-McMoRan donated one



million dollars to endow a faculty position in the Mineral Engineering Department at New Mexico Tech.

Not only

has Dr. Wilkinson provided impetus for a major donation to the Institute, he has also had significant achievements within the field of mining engineering. He has over 35 years of experience in mineral exploration and has worked in base and precious metal exploration worldwide. He is Vice President, Africa, for Freeport-McMoRan Exploration Corp. in Phoenix, Arizona. Prior to the merger of Freeport-McMoRan and Phelps Dodge Copper Mining Company, he was the assistant to the president of Phelps Dodge Exploration and vice president of exploration for the company.

Dr. Wilkinson is the current president and a Distinguished Member of the Society of Mining Engineers (SME). He has held numerous positions in SME, including past chair of the Mining & Exploration Division, program chair for the 2002 Annual meeting, SME Board member, SME Foundation Board member, and a member of the Registered Member Ethics Committee.

Michael Provenza, Distinguished Achievement Award

The Distinguished Achievement Award was presented posthumously to **Michael Provenza**, who had an extensive career in mining engineering before passing away last January. The award was accepted by his son, Jeffrey Provenza, pictured below.



Michael Provenza was a 1975 graduate, with a bachelor's degree in mining engineering. He held many positions within the mining industry.

Most recently, Michael Provenza was a General Mine Manager for Chevron Mining Inc., (formerly The Pittsburg & Midway Coal Mining Co.), managing mines in Raton and Gallup.

Mike was an outstanding leader at McKinley Mine of Chevron Mining Inc. Under his leadership the mine achieved 1 million man hours without a lost-time accident in May 2006. Also, two times under his leadership, the goal of 365 days without a lost-time accident was achieved. Mike's strong safety values were instrumental in these achievements.

Mike became known as a quiet person who provided solid leadership when it was needed.

He was one of the leaders within the Rocky Mountain Coal Mining Institute. As vice president of the group, he brought together many outstanding speakers at the Arizona-New Mexico meeting and provided information and connection points which might not have been available without his efforts.

People You Know

1950s

Lucius Clark (59, BS, mining engr.; 59, BS, metallurgical engr.) brought us up to date on the past 50 years. He writes, "After graduation I went to work at Magma Copper Co. in Superior, Arizona. The next two years were spent in the Army, during which time, I met and married my wife Jean.

"After the Army, Jean and I went to Superior, then to Tucson, where I got a master's degree and our first child, Donald, was born."

"I spent ten years with Freeport Minerals, living in Tucson; Hillsville, Va.; New York; and New Orleans. I also spent time in Indonesia, Australia, Mexico and Canada. During this time we had two more children, Andrew and Jennifer."

"After Freeport, we moved to St. Louis and worked for a coal mining company, Arch Minerals, and our fourth child, Margaret, was born."

"Later we moved to San Antonio, Tex., to work for Tesoro Coal Co. Then, we lived in Houston for several years, while I worked for Brown & Root, Keplinger Consultants, GCO Minerals, Standard Gypsum and the IRS. These jobs required a lot of travel, including China, Japan, Mexico and Uganda."

"Currently, Jean, Donald and I are living in Bremerton, Wash. We retired here for the cool summers and mild winters."

1960s

Barney Popkin (65) has written a manuscript on Guerrilla Government Contracting for Dummies and a middle reader book series. Popkin consults and conducts workshops in environmental engineering and procurement.

1970s

John A. Crum (75, BS, petroleum engr.) was named by his employer, Apache Corp., as co-chief operating officer and president - North America. He leads the Gulf Coast, Central and Canada regions as well as the Worldwide Drilling, corporate EH/S and Purchasing groups.

Crum was named executive vice president in 2000. Previously, he led the company's Australia and North Sea regions. Prior to joining the company in 1995, Crum served in executive and management roles with Aquila Energy Resources Corp., Pacific Enterprises Oil Co., and Southland Royalty Co. Crum served as chairman of the Australian Petroleum Production and Exploration Association and is a member of the Society of Petroleum Engineers.

Dr. Kathryn McMahon (75, BS, chemistry) professor of pharmacology, Department of Medical Education, Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, Paul L. Foster School of Medicine at El Paso, was recently honored as the first recipient of the Jonathan and Patricia Rogers Endowed Chair in Medical Education for the new medical school. The school will accept its charter class in July 2009.

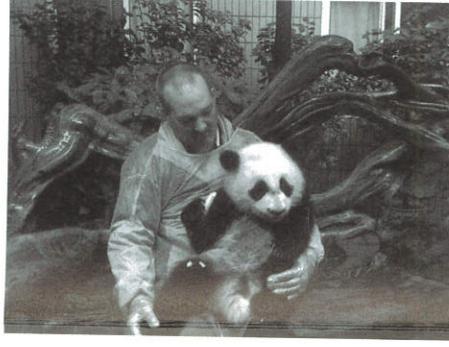
Dr. McMahon is a veteran of medical education at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center in Lubbock. She is internationally recognized in medical education as a leader in innovative

Graduate school at the University of New Mexico was overlapped in there from 1980 to 1988."

"In 2003 I moved into education. It turns out I had been teaching since 1977 when the Tech Astronomy Club opened the 10-inch telescope to the general public on Friday nights. I am now a physics/astronomy/electronics/robotics/comp. sci. teacher and computer science department chairman at The Harker School in San Jose, California. I have not had this much fun since my early days at SAIC blowing things up in the deserts of New Mexico and Nevada."

"I now live with my wife and youngest daughter in the mountains where I grew up above Los Gatos, California where I get to "play with science" again.

Chris West (82, BS, geological engr.), visited the Chengdu Panda Nursery. He commented, "I was impressed just how gentle this panda was, but I



know they can grow up to be a giants, so must be treated with respect." Chris is the Deepwater Drilling

and Completion manager for Chevron Indonesia. He reports that he is in his thirteenth home since leaving Socorro.

Bob Winn (83, BS, metallurgical engr.) writes, "I married Sonia Negrete on May 23, 2009 at a ceremony in Sonia's hometown of Brownwood, Texas. We reside in Pueblo, Colo., with our cat, Salem, where I am the account manager for Vesuvius USA, a refractory and steel technologies company headquartered in Brussels, Belgium. I maintain accounts in Colorado, Washington state, California, and Utah. My two sons, Logan and Sam, are both enrolled at New Mexico State University, working towards degrees in education and chemistry. Sonia is attending college working towards her masters degree in social work. We welcome contact with any of the Techies in this part of the world, and are working to expand the Colorado Alumni Association membership."

Elena (Scott) DeHerrera (86, BS, psychology) writes, "I currently live in Henderson, Nev., and I work at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. After many years working as a disability adjudicator for Social Security in Albuquerque and Carson City, Nev., I have shifted gears and am now working in higher education. I am currently involved in the UNLV iNtegrate ERP project, assisting with the implementation of a new student information system for all of Nevada's institutions of higher education."

"I have been happily married for almost six years to Ted DeHerrera (brother of former Techie, Melissa DeHerrera). I have a wonderful son, Bradley, who is 12 years old and an avid, accomplished downhill skier. I really miss my years at Tech, and so many of my lifelong friends from my college years. I do still keep in touch, although we don't get together often enough. Friends can contact me at elena.deherrera@gmail.com."

Ward Herst (86, MS, hydrology), recently won the prestigious Master's Championship in the

I didn't start racing 40s, but I appreciate dream of racing no that age and experie exuberance."

Herst is a previous (SCCA) Mid-Amer SCCA Midwest Di two-time SCCA Ru race) qualifier.

Herst is the Manag & Associates, Inc., environmental cons Charles (St. Louis), Member of the NM

Mathew A. Tilman (computer science) v state of Oregon's De Mineral Industries (

My position is GIS current project is th base map of the Por on LiDAR imagery

The area encompass involve creating new water bodies, roads a Concurrently, I am l redelineate FEMA D County, Ore., area. I DOGAMI on Decer

1990s

Andrew Montano (science) writes, "After Reclamation in Den years, I've accepted a Power Administration I love it here! I've been Pacific Northwest for made it. It's been a g busy with the new jo wind farms into the l Transmission System these types of interco the environmental an portions. Additional improvement project and improving condi important species in t rewarding job, and I l more with BPA in the

Lauren (Siegel) Hurst "My wonderful husba I have been living in Our daughters, Samar enjoying school at So Charter School I am p in counseling online, everyone's free time (v performing with Soco where Bryan was rece House.' The girls start also manager of the m Brooks Supermart in S 'famous' wings every V fun night. Friends, fee laurenhurtgen@yahoo

New Mexico Tech News Briefs

For complete articles, see www.nmt.edu and click on "News" in the left column.

Condie's Research Makes International Headlines

New Mexico Tech geophysics professor Dr. Kent Condie is the lead author of a paper in *Earth and Planetary Science Letters* that shows evidence that tectonic activity slowed to a crawl for more than 200 million years, creating a scenario some scientists call "snowball Earth." One of Condie's co-authors was Dr. Rick Aster, also of New Mexico Tech.

Student Heliostat Team Scores EPA Grant

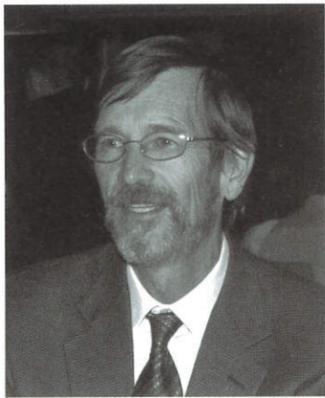
A group of Mechanical Engineering undergraduate students received a National Student Design Competition award of \$9,415 from the Environmental Protection Agency.

Lightning Researchers Hit Jackpot at Mt. Redoubt

New Mexico Tech lightning researchers hit the jackpot last spring, when, for the first time ever, they began recording data from a volcanic eruption right from the start. When Redoubt Volcano started rumbling in January, a team of Tech researchers hurried to south central Alaska to deploy a series of radio sensors. When the volcano began erupting overnight on March 22 and 23, the array of stations started returning clear and dramatic information about the electricity created within volcanic plumes and the resulting lightning.

Passings

Dr. Robert Bowman, 58, passed away on June 6, 2009, from cancer. He was a longtime hydrology



professor at New Mexico Tech. He is survived by his wife, Karen Bailey-Bowman and son, Daniel.

A fund is being established in Rob Bowman's memory. To make a contribution,

please make out a check to "New Mexico Tech" and write "Rob Bowman fund" on the memo line. Please send it to: Advancement Office, 801 Leroy Place, Socorro, New Mexico, 87801.

Dr. Bowman was noted for his research contributions, especially in areas such as use of zeolites for water treatment and in the solute budget and groundwater-surface water interactions of the Rio Grande. In recent months, he had been working with a Seattle company to market his patented processes on a global scale.

One of his crowning achievements was in 2006, when Bowman hosted the International Natural Zeolite Association's quadrennial conference, a weeklong event that brought 150 people to New Mexico Tech from 30 countries.

Bowman also was active in the community, serving on the board of the Socorro Soil & Water Conservation District, and providing his expertise in many other areas related to the Rio Grande.

But it was Rob Bowman the person who was best remembered by the many friends who gathered for

a service on June 10. Dr. Rick Aster, chairman of the Earth and Environmental Science Department, said, "Rob was one of the most generous, helpful, kind and even-tempered people I've worked with. For someone like me, a younger professor, he was the perfect embodiment of a key mentor who makes other people's careers more successful."

The following are brief excerpts. For more information, please see the website.

John B. Rhodes, a 1951 graduate in mining engineering, passed away on Feb. 27, 2009 in Albuquerque. John and his late wife, Rhea, had two children, John and Nancy.

Dr. Alex Shlanta passed away on June 29, 2008, after a valiant struggle with cancer. He joined his wife Sondra who passed just a month earlier. His daughter Norelle Shlanta (08, MS, math; 06, BS, math) and former wife Pat Rogers were by his side and many close friends were near when he passed.

He received his Ph.D. in physics in 1972 from New Mexico Tech.

Alex played many important roles to many people: father, grandfather, teacher, friend, mentor, musician, runner, scientist, scholar, explorer, dedicated worker, world traveler and warrior. In May 2006, Cerro Coso Community College dedicated the Dr. Alex Shlanta Astronomical Observatory.

Dr. Arpad Emil Torma 76, passed away on March 10. Torma was a former professor of metallurgy at New Mexico Tech, and also served as Dean of Engineering, Director of the State Mining and Mineral Resources Institute (Mineral Institute) and Director of the Sullivan Center for In-situ Mining Research.

Donations to Music Program Will Be Matched

Eileen Comstock and Warren Marts, a Socorro couple and New Mexico Tech alumni who support the performing arts at Tech, have offered to match donations to the Music Program.

To date, donations of over \$3700 have been received for the program, which is part of New Mexico Tech's Humanities Department. The gifts include a much-welcomed donation of over \$1000 from the National Radio Astronomy Observatory. The Music Program offers music lecture and performance courses, runs the university's vocal and instrumental performing ensembles, and produces two major performances a year that

include students, Tech community, and Socorro community performers.

Comstock commented that the Tech Music Program and Michael Iatauro (late director of the program) gave her a very valuable gift with the opportunity to take up French horn during her undergraduate studies at Tech. She said that playing horn for enjoyment and stress relief during medical school and subsequent training helped her focus on the job she needed to do.

The couple are well known to Socorro audiences as participants in many Tech musical activities. Comstock directed "Fiddler on the Roof" several

years ago, and Marts directed "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat." Over the years, they have sung in choruses and played instruments in orchestras countless times. Comstock directs the Socorro Community Concert Band, which has occasionally been offered as a Tech Community College class.

There is still time to make donations under the matching challenge. Interested donors should make out checks to "New Mexico Tech" and put "Music Matching Challenge" on the memo line. Please mail checks to: Music Matching Challenge, Advancement Office, 801 Leroy Place, Socorro, N.M. 87801.

For more information, call the Advancement Office at 575-835-5525.

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Thanks to everyone who ordered School of Mines Belt Buckles advertised in the last Gold Pan. We were overwhelmed with the response! Sorry for the delay in filling orders, but we have now made arrangements with our distributor and are able to fill orders much faster.

Coming soon: NMIMT belt buckles. Anyone for bolos?

Price includes shipping. Make check out to "New Mexico Tech" and please put "belt buckle" on the memo line. Mail check and this form to:

Advancement Office
801 Leroy Place
Socorro, N.M. 87801

Original bronze belt buckle: \$30 Number: _____

Solid sterling silver belt buckle: \$100 Number: _____

14 k Gold belt buckle: Call for quote, 575-835-5525

Order Your School of Mines Belt Buckle!



Preliminary Schedule for 49ers, Oct. 22, 23, 24, 25, 2009

Thursday, Oct. 22

All day: **Sign-in** with Advancement/ Alumni Office in Fidel Center; enjoy coffee and cookies

Evening: **Reception** for alumni and faculty. Current faculty and emeritus faculty in Socorro area invited. Private home.

Friday, Oct. 23

All day: **Sign-in** with Advancement/ Alumni Office in Fidel Center; enjoy coffee and cookies

10 a.m.: **SPE Gold Rush Golf Tournament**, 4 person scramble, \$49 per person, includes green fees, cart. To sign up, call 575-835-5412.

Afternoon: **Tours of campus**, leaving from Fidel Center.

Evening: Open for people who want to see **Vigilante Band**

Saturday, Oct. 24

11 a.m. (line-up at 10 a.m.) **49ers Parade**: NMT Superstar! From Sedillo Park, down California St. to Plaza.

Alumni Luncheon and Annual General Meeting. Starts after parade, about noon, Fidel Third Floor.

Evening: Open for people who want to see **Vigilante Band**

Sunday, Oct. 25

M Mountain Run, organized and managed by Research Office. Requires sign-up in advance. Leaves from foot of M Mountain.

Tour of Magdalena Ridge Observatory. Leaves Fidel Center at 11 a.m.; returns approx. 3:30 p.m.

Maximum of 50 people. Must have own 4-wheel drive transportation and willingness to drive on mountain roads.

Schedule:

Water Canyon by 11:30

Reach mountaintop by noon. Eat box lunches indoors, out of wind

Tour of interferometer building, led by Dr. Dan Klingsmith, approx. 1 to 1:45 p.m.

Tour of 2.4 meter telescope bldg., approx. 1:45 to 2:30 p.m., led by Dr. Eileen Ryan

Leave ridge by 2:30 p.m.

Back in Socorro by 3:30 p.m.

Welcome, China Lake Chapter!



A new alumni chapter in China Lake, California, joined chapters in Houston, Colorado, Santa Fe, Albuquerque, and Dallas. Many Tech alumni work at the China Lake Naval Weapons Research Center or live in nearby Ridgecrest. They held their first meeting on May. 7. Above, Eric Wilson (99, BS, materials engr.) talks with another alum at the gathering.

Albuquerque-area Alumni Party

All alumni in the Albuquerque area are invited!

Thursday, July 23, 2009

5:30 to 7 p.m.

St. Clair Winery & Bistro, 901 Rio Grande Blvd., NW, Albuquerque

Hors d'oeuvres on us; no-host bar

Come see friends and catch up on the latest news about Tech!

Vino y Volcanoes March 13 - 22, 2010 A trip of the New Mexico Tech Alumni Association

Dr. William X. Chávez, Jr., is still working on his trip to Chile for New Mexico Tech alumni. To get on the mailing list, please contact the Advancement Office at 575-835-5525 or alumni@admin.nmt.edu.

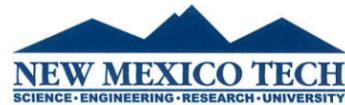


Buy a Belt Buckle!

Genuine copy School of Mines Belt Buckle

See page 3 for information on ordering.

New this issue: Silver and Gold belt buckles!



GOLD PAN, Summer 2009
Alumni Newsletter for
New Mexico Institute for Mining
& Technology
New Mexico School of Mines

801 Leroy Place
Socorro, NM 87801

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