NEW MEXICO TECH
SCIENCE • ENGINEERING • RESEARCH UNIVERSITY

Gold Pan

Alumni Newsletter for
New Mexico Institute of Mining & Technology
New Mexico School of Mines
Spring 2010

Letter from the President

of the New Mexico Tech Alumni Association

Dear Fellow Alumni:

I am pleased to report that the NMTAA is working closely with New Mexico Tech Administration and Dr. Lopez to restore our independent status by returning to a 501c3 organization. With the continuing economic downturn and tightened state budget it clarifies the need to expand and diversify our resources to better serve the Alumni. As a result, our needs for Alumni support will be increasing as we grow the organization.

In the short term, we need to define our current relationship with New Mexico Tech and collaborate on what future state we each desire to achieve. It will take the remainder of this year to properly file and receive approval of our applications with the state and federal governments. We will be using this time to define the roles and responsibilities of the NMTAA and New Mexico Tech in a bridge agreement. We are working cooperatively with Colleen Guengerich to develop this bridge agreement, so that the Alumni Association will be in step with New Mexico Tech to bring value to you in a clear and efficient manner.

One of the first outcomes of this process has been to bring our organization in line with corporate guidelines set by New Mexico. We were lacking the position of Secretary and Geza Keller has been accepted to fill this position until elections are held in October. My thanks to Geza for stepping back into an officer role.

We will be run on volunteers for the foreseeable future. We are fortunate that there are Tech alumni who are lawyers, CPAs, and leaders of all types of organizations and corporations. If you feel you have skills that you could lend the NMTAA to reach its goals please let us know.

I look forward to the next two months where my duties give me the opportunity to be on campus and interact with students, faculty, and our newest graduating alumni. If you plan to be at the Langdon Taylor Banquet or the 2010 Commencement please look for me and share your thoughts. It is your interests that we are here to serve.

Brett Wendt

President, New Mexico Tech Alumni Association

Colleen Guengerich, Director of Advancement

You can tell how enthusiastic Colleen Guengerich is about her new job by the sparkle in her eye as she talks about it.

"I think we have a fantastic team assembled here, and I look forward to all we'll be able to accomplish together," she says.

Colleen, who was the marketing and events coordinator for Tech for two years before her appointment to director, has started several new initiatives.

"Within the past few years, the growth of social networking sites has made it possible for us to communicate with alumni as never before," she says. "I want to open lines of communication with alumni, visit many of you in your hometowns, and meet many of you here in Socorro."

Colleen, who has three children in Socorro schools and two attending Tech, is firmly rooted in Socorro. In addition, she has a daughter at UNM-VC.

"I'm in this position for the long haul," she says. "I'm here for my family, for New Mexico Tech, and for the alumni."

One of Colleen's initiatives is to update the Raiser's Edge database used by the Office for Advancement, including some new modules which will provide web interactivity.

"We are working with the Raiser's Edge company right now to update our database and get our staff trained to use it," she says. "One module that most excites us is the online alumni directory. Finally, alumni who are members of the Alumni Association will be able to log in, update their profile information, find and contact fellow alumni, and re-connect for reunions, or just for a cup of coffee."

In other actions, she is planning to set up alumni events in various cities where Tech has high concentrations of alumni.

"Often, it is hard for alumni to get back to Socorro," she says. "We have held events in Houston and Phoenix and are planning more, to allow alumni to meet us from the alumni office and connect and network with each other."

Her long-term plans include a gradual growth of the Advancement Office over the years.

"Most other universities have people in their advancement offices who specialize in various types of fundraising," she says. "Over the next decade, I'd like to grow our office and train staff in various specialties, so we can deal more effectively with scholarships, endowments, wills, trusts, major gifts, and annual giving from alumni. We also want to be able to support alumni chapters in various cities, with a clear mission for the chapters and processes for carrying that out."

New Faces at Office for Advancement

The Advancement Office of New Mexico Tech sports a number of new faces these days, including some alumni will recognize from other areas.

Kathy Hedges, now Assistant Director for Advancement, has brought you most of the issues of *Gold Pan* since 1985. In addition, she has written and edited more Tech publications than she can really remember. Now, in addition to *Gold Pan*, she is running a Facebook page called "New Mexico Tech Alumni Association," planning alumni events, and figuring out what to do next 49ers. She invites everyone to join the alumni Facebook page at http://www.facebook.com/?ref=home#!/group.php?gid=101855114588&ref=ts.

Tony Ortiz, Assistant Director for Advancement and Alumni Relations, has been at New Mexico Tech since 1993. Since 2002, he has been director of Science Fair and Science Olympiad. Now, in addition to those duties, he is also in the Advancement Office, planning events such as the President's Club Dinner every April and the President's Golf Tournament (held every September, and scheduled for Sept. 17 this year). You'll meet him hosting chapter events and assisting with fund-raising activities.

Edie Steinhoff, Graphic Artist and Marketing Director, came to Tech in 2000 as graphic artist, and now she has added marketing coordinator to her repertoire. Edie earned her master's degree in marketing by taking a distance education program while working as Tech's graphic artist simultaneously. Now, she combines her artistic inspirations with her marketing insights to improve Tech marketing efforts and publications.

LaVern Robinson rides herd on the whole office and keeps things on track as Administrative Coordinator. If you call in to make a reservation for an event, hers is the happy and cheerful voice you will hear.

In addition, you may encounter **Thomas Guengerich** working in close cooperation with the Advancement Office. Thom was owner, editor, and publisher of the *Mountain Mail* for six years before he came to Tech, and was the publisher of *El Defensor Chieftain* before that. He is currently Tech's Public Information Officer. Most of the news articles you find on Tech's web pages were written by him. Although the Public Information Office is a separate administrative entity from the Advancement Office, Thom is located within the same suite of offices and we all share information back and forth.

People You Know

Please send your news to alumni@admin.nmt.edu

Sidney Kirschner (56, BS, metallurgical engr.) has joined the firm Raising the Bar as managing director of its newly launched consulting practice. Kirschner will lead the practice in strategic planning, profitability modeling, pricing and compensation for law and accounting firms.

Kirschner is the former chairman and chief executive officer of Northside Hospital. Before joining Northside Hospital, Kirschner was the chairman, president, and CEO of National Service Industries (NSI), a Fortune 500 company. Prior to NSI, he was the president of the Electric Motor Division of General Dynamics Corporation.

Kirschner spent the early part of his career in engineering roles with Aerojet Aerospace Corporation and Curtiss-Wright Corporation, where he quickly rose through the management ranks. He is currently the Head of School at the Alfred and Adele Davis Academy in Atlanta. Governor Sonny Perdue recently appointed Kirschner to the Georgia Board of the Department of Community Health, the lead agency in Georgia for health care planning and purchasing with an annual budget of $11 billion.

Morris Worley (58, B.S., mining engr.) writes, "I have had two articles published in the *Journal of the Mining History Association*, the first in the 2008 volume, 'Roll Front to Yellowcake: Innovations in Uranium Mining; Recollections of the Highland Uranium Operations,' and the second in the 2009 volume, 'The Cane Creek Mine Disaster: Personal Observations.'

He adds, "But to show I'm not just a relict of mining history, I satisfactorily passed the exam to become a Certified Mine Safety Professional in October 2009. I continue to manage the zeolite mining operations in Arizona for UOP LLC (a Honeywell company). It's a good way to keep my miner's boots on!"

Dr. Marvin W. Rowe (59, BS, petroleum engr.) has been selected by the American Rock Art Research Foundation (ARARA) to receive the Bock Award, to be presented at the annual conference held in Del Rio, Texas, in March. According to ARARA, the Bock Award is for candidates with extraordinary achievements over their lifetime in the fields of rock art studies, documentation, education, conservation, and outreach. Marvin Rowe, retired after teaching chemistry at Texas A&M University for 40 years, and his wife, Dr. Kathleen Rowe, now live in Santa Fe.

Dr. Frank Carsey, (65, BS, physics) writes "I have recently had a piece of ceramic sculpture invited into the CVG 2010 Show, a juried art show in Bremerton, Wash., my home town. The piece is entitled "Holding Tight." I have been working in ceramics for about five years on a sort of half-time basis while serving as househusband and generally goofing off as an old-age pensioner. You can see what that life is like on my blog: http://fcarsey.livejournal.com. Whereas I am no longer hammering at research and development, as a good Tech physics guy should, at least I come to the 49ers every year, trying to recapture the memories, looking for traces of the old gang, to little avail. Please, 60s people, throw away your walkers, flex your hand for holding a beer mug, and come back to Socorro for some green chile and a walk up M Mountain. I will stand you a round while the Vigilantes play."

William A. Faust (79, BS, mining engr.) has been named to the Board of Directors of Pediment Gold Corp. Faust has over 28 years of engineering and management experience, including over 10 years of mine development and operations in Mexico. He is chief operations officer and senior vice president for Crystallex International Corporation. Previously, he served as VP of Operations for Nevada Pacific Gold Ltd. and as VP of Operations for Corner Bay Silver. From 1997 to 2001, Mr. Faust was VP of Operations for El Dorado Gold after initially serving as general manager for La Colorada Mine.

In addition to his degree from New Mexico Tech, Faust is a Registered Professional Engineer in New Mexico, and holds an MBA in finance and management from Western New Mexico University and a bachelor's in civil engineering from the University of New Mexico.

Nirupam Chakraborti (79, MS, metallurgical engr.) writes that he has just become an honorary professor of "Soft Computing in Materials Science and Technology" at the Abo Akademi University in Finland. He holds a permanent professorship of metallurgical and materials engineering at Indian Institute of Technology in Kharagpur.

Dr. Tim Callahan (96, MS, geochemistry; 01, Ph.D., hydrology) has been promoted to director of the master's of science in environmental studies program at the College of Charleston. Since joining the college in 2001, he has been granted over $400,000 in external funding for local, state, and national research projects. He has published several papers on groundwater pollution, the hydrology of Carolina Bays and other freshwater depression wetlands, and watershed hydrology in the Coastal Plain region.

Jessica (Burks) Deshler (99, BS, math) is an assistant professor of mathematics at West Virginia University. She is running a half marathon in June to raise funds for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. One of the people she's doing this in memory of is the late Dr. Curtis Barefoot, her undergraduate advisor at Tech. People wishing to contribute should visit http://pages.teamintraining.org/vtnt/rnr10/jseshler.

Jessica adds, "After getting my degree from Tech, I attended UNM and earned my M.S. in 2001 and my Ph.D. in 2008, both in applied mathematics. I live in Morgantown, W. Va. with my husband, Adam, and our four children Eric, Rebekah, Kaitlyn and Jack."

Israel Vaughn (02, BS, math) writes "I have now moved to Tucson, where I am currently in the Ph.D. program at the College of Optical Sciences at the University of Arizona (the best optics program in the country). I recently published an article in *Optics Express*"about optimizing and experimentally verifying noise reduction in a polarimeter.

"My current work is finding physically meaningful manifolds in remote sensing data for the prediction of the intensification of extratropical hurricanes. Tropical cyclones that undergo extratropical transition and then re-intensify are responsible for a huge amount of economic damage each year. If we can predict them a few days before they happen, it will be beneficial for warning about this damage. I am using math-heavy techniques to do this."

"I recently married Erin E. (Hahn) Vaughn. I also bought a small town house in Tucson when I started in the optics program."

Donald Wenner (04, BS, chemistry) and his wife, **Stephanie Smith Wenner** (04, BS, materials engr.) had their first child, a boy named Donald Edward Wenner IV on December 22, 2009. Donald is a second-year urology resident at UNM and Stephanie works for Applied Research Associates.

Nathan Wenner (06, BS, biology) married Jalene Clausen in Roswell in July 2009 and moved to Ft. Collins, Colo. in August to start veterinary school at CSU. Jalene works at Well Fargo Bank in Ft. Collins.

Tech in the News

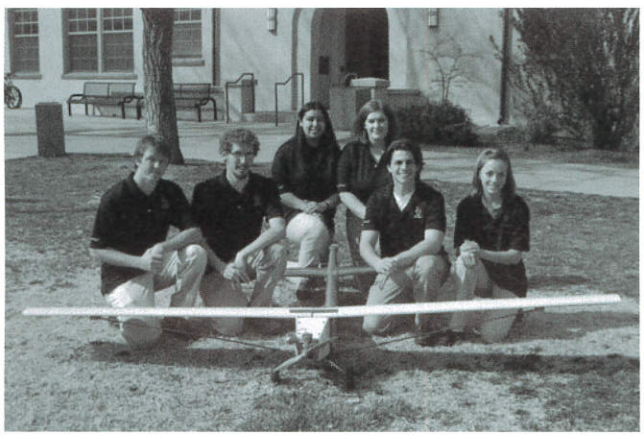
The following news items are summarized from articles by Thomas Guengerich, New Mexico Tech's Public Information Officer. Guengerich has also started a series of profiles of alumni, beginning with Ward Herst (86, BS, hydrology). See the Tech homepage at www.nmt.edu for this and other profiles.

Tech Team Second in Engineering Software Contest

Two New Mexico Tech students won second place in a design competition at the annual conference of the Geo-Institute, a branch of the American Society of Civil Engineers, in February in Florida. Ahmed Mustafa Hussien, an undergraduate student in civil engineering, and Ali Rahnama, a graduate student in mineral engineering, were honored for their exceptional performance. The duo said the conference was an excellent professional opportunity; Hussien said he even had one job offer during the event.

Tech Plane Finishes 11th At National Competition

In the SAE Aero-Design West competition in Van Nuys, Calif. in March, New Mexico Tech's Team Canary finished 11th in an international field. The



Team Canary is (from left) Matt Swanson, Shawn Ward, Anais Linan, Tami Dixon, Ben Cooper and Rebecca Vickers.

Tech mechanical engineering team successfully flew their radio-controlled plane in seven out of eight rounds. Ecole Polytechnique de Montreal won the competition, and only four U.S. university teams finished ahead of New Mexico Tech – Michigan Tech (2nd), Kansas State (3rd), Kansas (9th) and Michigan (10th).

Chemistry Department Overhauls Curriculum, Facilities

The Chemistry Department is in the midst of radical changes to make required chemistry courses enjoyable, modern, engaging and challenging. Dr. Wim Steelant, department chair, spearheaded changes in curriculum, facilities, equipment and technology, with support from Dr. Jeff Altig, the rest of the department, and the administration.

The General Chemistry Lab – where every freshman takes required courses – was completely gutted and refurnished. The lab can now handle two classes of 24, and the Gen Chem section has been upgraded from 288 to 432 students.

The department is also adding a new computer modeling lab. The university funded the purchase of a new microscopic magnetic resonance instrument, allowing the department to devote one NMR to research and the other to teaching. The department has invested more than $25,000 in laboratory glassware.

Passings

director of Langmuir Laboratory for Atmospheric Research, and renowned researcher on atmospheric physics, passed away on March 2, 2010, in Socorro. An extended tribute, including an appreciation of his scientific contributions by Dr. Paul Krehbiel, is at http://www.nmt.edu/news/3704-charles-b-moore-1920-2010.

Moore took a long and circuitous route to the heights of his profession, managing to bypass a Ph.D. along the way, until 2003, when he was awarded an honorary Ph.D. by New Mexico Tech. He received numerous awards from fellow scientists, including a fellowship awarded by the American Geophysical Union, the Otto C. Winzen Lifetime Achievement Award of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, and the Lifetime Achievement Award of the Atmospheric Electricity Community.

Although Moore retired in 1985, he remained active and productive in research until the last few years, when Alzheimer's disease affected him. He is survived by his wife, Wilma, and their three children, Charles III, Rita, and Malcolm.

David Lee Baker, age 55, passed away January 18, 2010 in Albuquerque, of complications of diabetes. He earned a master's degree in geology from New Mexico Tech in 1986. He survived by his son, Duncan Baker; brother, Al Baker; and mother, Peggy Baker.

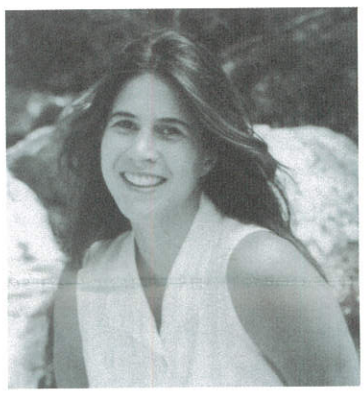
John Duletsky, a 1952 alumnus, and his wife, Ruby Lee Hawk Duletsky, both passed away on Dec. 28, 2009, under separate circumstances. In 1985, John was honored by the New Mexico Tech Alumni Association with its Distinguished Achievement Award.

John was born on Aug. 13, 1926, in Detroit,

Lengthier and more detailed versions of these Passings notices are available at https://www.nmt.edu/obituaries/3758-obituaries-sept-2009-to-march-2010

Mich. He enlisted in the U. S. Navy and spent the last two years of World War II as an aviation machinist mate/ aerial gunner. He then attended New Mexico School of Mines, where he earned a degree in petroleum engineering. He worked in the "oil patch" for several years in Texas and Venezuela, and was then employed by the U.S. Geological Survey in several western states. He transferred to USGS headquarters in Reston, Va., in 1971. Prior to his retirement from USGS/BLM, John was active in helping to generate many of the on-shore procedures and regulations concerning oil and gas development still in use.

Julie (Bundy) Meadows passed away on Dec. 13, 2009, after a 15-month courageous battle against brain cancer. She was a 1996 graduate of New Mexico Tech, with a bachelor's degree in environmental science. She was married to Darren Meadows (93, BS, environmental engr.) and was the mother of Hayden, 6, and Cameron, 4. The family lived in Los Alamos.



Julie Bundy Meadows

David Martin Thurston died at the age of 48 on April 6, 2010, at the City of Hope Cancer Center near Pasadena, Calif., after a nearly yearlong battle with acute mylogenic leukemia. David was a double alumnus of New Mexico Tech, having graduated in 1991 with a bachelor of basic science degree, and again in 2005 with a master of science teaching degree. He was also a theater tech at Macey Center. Dave was a resident of Los Alamos and a beloved science teacher at Los Alamos High School.

Frank Eli Wedekind, age 76, of Knight Town Road, Shippenville, PA, died on November 6, 2009, at the Clarion Hospital. He was a professor of Chemistry and Geology and Dean of Academics at the University of Pittsburgh, Titusville, PA. He graduated from Penn State University with a bachelor's degree in geochemistry and then earned his master's degree at Tech.

The Alumni Relations Office received word of the passing of the following alumni, but no further information was available.

Ernest Eugene Clark, a 1942 graduate in petroleum engineering, passed away on June 18, 2009 in Odessa, Tex. He was retired from Phillips Petroleum.

Richard S. Crial, a 1951 graduate in mining engineering, passed away on Aug. 5, 2009. He was retired from the United States Navy and from Boeing.

Gary Jarvela, who received his master's degree in physics in 1965, passed away on Nov. 10, 2006.

Charles Reichert, who received a bachelor's of general studies in 1974, passed away in 2009.

Russel Sandberg, who received a bachelor's degree in chemistry in 1990, passed away on May 27, 2003.

John H. Stitzer, who earned a bachelor's degree in mining engineering in 1941, passed away on Aug,. 4, 2007.

Raymond Stateham, who received a bachelor's degree in geology in 1957, passed away on March 2, 2008

"Starry Magdalena Night" Poster for Sale!

When Vincent Van Gogh wasn't busy making all those coffee mugs and mouse pads, he took time out to paint New Mexico Tech's Magdalena Ridge Observatory. At least, that's our story, and we're sticking to it.

To own your own 2 ft. X 3 ft. wall poster, send $8 per poster(includes tax and shipping) to:

Advancement Office

801 Leroy Place

Socorro, N.M. 87801

Or call LaVern at 575-835-5525.

Walk-in orders only $5.25 at Advancement Office, second floor of Fidel Center.

Board of Directors, NMTAA

Brett Wendt (term expires October 31, 2011)

Paul Shoemaker (term expires October 31, 2013)

Geza Keller (term expires October 31, 2011)

Charles Major (term expires October 31, 2013)

Richard Miller (term expires October 31, 2011)

Tom Dillon (term expires October 31, 2011)

Linda Linden (term expires October 31, 2013)

John Dowdle (term expires October 31, 2011)

Eric Wilson (term expires October 31, 2013)

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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Vino e Volcanoes Alumni Trip to Volcanic Italy, May 20 - 30, 2011

Intrepid alumni Louise and Richard Chamberlin are leading New Mexico Tech's trip to Italy next year, and we want YOU to come!

Why do you want to come? Because you'll see some of the favorite objects of Tech alumni, namely volcanoes and the bottoms of wine bottles.

Mt. Etna! Mt. Vesuvius! Stromboli! Pompeii!

The tour is being organized by AHI International, specialists in alumni group travel.

Here's the official tour description:

As a cultural crossroads of the ancient world, **Sicily** abounds with enchanting natural beauty, fascinating folklore and incomparable cuisine. Begin your discovery of this fascinating region in **Syracuse**. Located in **Ortygia**, it was one of the most important cities in the ancient world. Admire the baroque architecture of the town of **Noto** and marvel at the Villa Romana del Casale in Piazza Armerina. Visit the remains of the Greek colony at **Agrigento**, described as "the most beautiful city built by mortal men" by the Greek poet Pindar. A highlight is a local winery visit.

Immerse yourself in Sicily's scenic splendor during a drive up the huge volcanic edifice of **Mt. Etna**. Visit a farm to learn about the important ingredient for Sicily's limoncello liqueur. In **Taormina**, you'll walk among the many Greek, Roman and medieval monuments.

After our full-day excursion to the islands of Lipari and fiery **Stromboli**, board an overnight ferry to Italy's mainland.

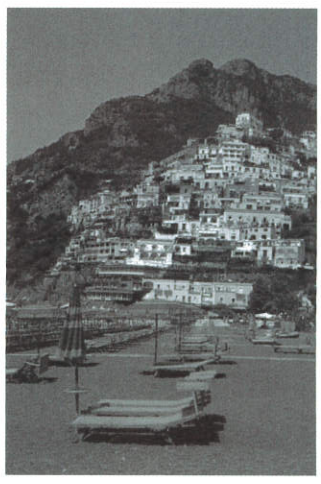
Explore the geologically "restless" caldera west of **Naples**, Campi Felegri, and and see its treasured archaeological artifacts before settling in the lovely resort town of **Sorrento** with cliff-top lemon groves, carefree cafés and sparkling seas. Walk the ancient Roman streets of the excavated cities of **Pompeii** and **Herculaneum**. Hike to the overlook of **Mount Vesuvius**, the source of their devastation. Marvel at the winding streets of charming **Positano**, Italy's most vertical town. Admire the breathtaking natural beauty of the **Amalfi Coast**.

Start saving now, as this first class tour will cost just under $4000 for double occupancy; just over $4000 for single occupancy. That does not include airfare.

Details are being finalized. To get on a mailing list for our brochure, call LaVern at 575-835-5525 or email lrobinson@admin.nmt.edu.

Oh, and the Chile alumni trip was canceled because of that teensy earthquake. Did we mention that buying trip insurance is a good idea?

Vino e Volcanoes
May 20 - 30, 2011
Alumni Trip to Volcanic Italy



Upper left: Richard and Louise Chamberlin at Mt. Etna. Left: Sorrento Coastline. Above: Bathing Beauties of Armerina, Italy. Upper right: baroque architecture of Noto, Italy. Right: Town of Positano. Far right: Amalfi Coast.

Coming Events

For updated information on Coming Events, see the Facebook page for the NMT Alumni Association at http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#!/group.php?gid=101855114588

May 14 and 15 – Golden Reunion for Class of 1960, Socorro

May 14 Socorro Alumni Reception and Farewell to Class of 2010, 4 to 6 p.m., Golf Course Pavilion

June 4 – Albuquerque Alumni Reception St. Clair Winery 901 Rio Grande, Albuquerque, NM 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

June 24 – Seattle-area Alumni Reception, location TBA. Watch the alumni Facebook page!

Fri., Oct. 22 – Reunion of the Aughts, Golf Pavilion, NMT Golf Course, Socorro.

Classes of 1960, 1970, 1980, 1990, 2000, and all faculty and emeritus faculty invited!

Class of 1970, 1969, and 1971 contact Bill Guse, bill@mysticspiritdesign.com, for reunion information.

Sat., Oct. 23 – 49ers Parade: "Zombies Want Brains!"

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Return Service Requested