

The School of Mines 1889



Old Main, 1890's



1st Dorm, Driscoll Hall, 1900's



First day of classes, 1920's



Students, 1930's



Juniors and Seniors, 1940's



Physics Lab, 1950's



Students, 1960's



Paul Shoemaker, 1970's



Commencement, 1980's



49ers, 1990's



Robotics Contest, China, 2000's



Students, 2010's

A word from the President . . .



Greetings to all Techies!

2010 was full of good news and bad news at New Mexico Tech.

First let me summarize the good news: Our faculty, staff, researchers and students continue to produce excellent results in the classroom, in the laboratory and in the field. New Mexico Tech continues to achieve high marks nationally against our peers and we are national and international leaders in our fields of expertise. New Mexico Tech is consistently recognized by college ranking systems and by reputation as one of the top science and engineering universities in the nation.

Tech scientists and engineers continue to churn out exceptional work in our academic departments and research divisions. Our outside funding for research continues to grow in a wide range of areas, including petroleum recovery, Homeland Security training, atmospheric physics and astrophysics, seismology, computer science and cyber security, chemical engineering, biomedical research and optics. In these areas and others, New Mexico Tech is thriving with a growing portfolio of funded research activities.

Now for the bad news: Tech relies solely on funding from the state of New Mexico to support our academic mission and the state budget has taken quite a hit over the past two years. To date, we have taken a 16 percent cut in our state funding. We have done an admirable job of finding creative ways to trim our spending, all the while maintaining our traditionally high standards in all academic areas. Despite the financial challenges we face, New Mexico Tech has stayed within our budget and will continue to operate in a healthy fashion.

Rest assured, we will weather this storm and continue to be a leading institution for learning in New Mexico, in the nation and in the world!

Dr. Daniel H. López
New Mexico Tech President



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inside
GOLD PAN
ALUMNI MAGAZINE

Greetings & Happy New Year!



It has been a busy year here in the Office for Advancement at New Mexico Tech.

With all new staff, an updated database, and an interactive website about to be unveiled, we certainly feel that we have accomplished a lot. Though most of the changes have been behind-the-scenes, they will ultimately benefit you, our Alumni.

We were able to connect with nearly 300 of you at receptions around the US this past year. The largest gatherings were in Houston and in Phoenix. These events provide an avenue for you to reconnect with past classmates and network with fellow alumni. It is also an opportunity for us to update you about what is new at Tech. We come away from these events awed at what all of you have accomplished since graduating from Tech.

We will continue hosting receptions around the US. Please check the events calendar in Gold Pan and the calendar on our website to find an alumni event in a city near you. If your city is not listed, please drop us a line and we will try to schedule a visit.

Thanks to all of you for your patience in dealing with the inconvenience of losing TCC alumni email accounts. We now offer all alumni free accounts. If you do not yet have your new email account, please contact LaVern at 575.835.5616.

As we look to the New Year, we are expecting the alumni website to be live by the end of February. Please spend some time becoming acquainted with it. Once you register, you can determine the amount of information you want to make public about yourself, you can search the database for fellow classmates, and you will be able to give to Tech on-line!

As always, comments and suggestions are welcome.

We hope to visit with you soon.

Colleen Guengerich
Director, Office for Advancement

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letters

Paul E. Shoemaker

*President, NMTAA
Physics, 1971*

Fellow Alums:

A new year, a new president for the New Mexico Tech Alumni Association, and a new opportunity to communicate with New Mexico Tech alumni scattered across the globe.

For the New Mexico Tech Alumni Association (NMTAA), the year began in October with the annual 49ers celebration. It is during that celebration that alumni return to Socorro to relive some of our more raucous behaviors – or at least to remember some of those behaviors – to reconnect with the university and with each other, and even to attend the Alumni General Meeting. At that meeting, officers were elected for the NMTAA and other alumni business was conducted.

Officers elected to serve until 49ers 2011 were: Paul Shoemaker, President; Brett Wendt, Vice President; Geza Keller, Vice President; and, Charles Major, Treasurer.

Permit me to offer a bit of background about me and my connections with Tech. I earned my undergraduate

degree in Physics at Tech, graduating in 1971. I went on to secure a master's degree in public affairs at the LBJ School at the University of Texas (1973) and knocked around professionally in government and private consulting until landing at Sandia National Laboratories in 1981. I've been at Sandia ever since. I've had several "careers" at Sandia, and presently serve as Deputy Chief Operating Officer of Sandia's Nuclear Weapons Strategic Management Unit. In March, I'll return to Carlsbad, New Mexico to again head Sandia's operations there supporting the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant and to take on other defense waste management challenges.

At intervals during the last two decades, I've accepted invitations to work with administrators and faculty at Tech in crafting strategic plans for the university, and for the last five or six years I have played an official role for Sandia in strengthening both research and academic relationships between Tech and Sandia.

Tech is now in its 122nd year. These are times when Tech is prospering academically. Research conducted at Tech continues to be wide ranging and to have broad impact.

Tech faculty, staff, and students engage in activities that advance the technical state-of-the-art and help secure the nation. A Tech faculty member and Institute leader has even been tapped to serve as a cabinet secretary in the administration of New Mexico's newly elected governor.

These are also times when Tech is facing significant operational and fiscal challenges, as are most state supported institutions in New Mexico. In order to balance budgets, New Mexico's state supported research universities are being asked to take some pretty dramatic reductions in state funding.

The New Mexico Tech Alumni Association exists to serve Tech alumni in a variety of ways, and it exists to support the place we know as the New Mexico School of Mines, New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology, or as New Mexico Tech – depending on when we were there. Whether you choose to support an academic department, a research interest, a scholarship fund, or the school in general, 2011 would be a good year to choose to make that support felt.

I visit Tech often, especially in connection with the

relationship-building role I play for Sandia National Labs. During a recent visit, I was allowed to see and even touch the first page in an oversized record book on which were recorded in a fine cursive hand the minutes of Tech's first Board of Regents meeting, a meeting that took place on November 13, 1889. That experience reminded me of the enduring spirit of the place where we received a truly fine education and where we built connections with faculty, fellow students, and with administrators, connections that also endure.

In this new year, I encourage us all to refresh those connections, to continue supporting Tech, and to represent in our professional lives the value that a Tech education brings to us and to the disciplines in which we have chosen to work.



Paul E. Shoemaker

Joaquin Roibal *Hello members of the New Mexico Tech Alumni Association,*

When I was elected in May 2010, it was a priority for me to bring back Porphyry, New Mexico Tech's yearbook. The Porphyry was last printed in 2007, and before that, in 2001. In the fall semester of 2010, the editor in chief of Paydirt, Ms. Victoria Carreon, and myself made progress on the yearbook and institutionalizing the changes necessary to ensure that Porphyry will be printed for the school year 2010-2011 and beyond.

The hardest part of bringing back the yearbook was the lack of allocated funds for the project. Through raffles, support of key administration, and other fundraising, Porphyry has met a little more than half of our \$10,000 required to print this year's yearbook. All graduating seniors will receive a free copy and anyone else who would like a yearbook will pay \$50. This year's Porphyry comes in full color, hardcover, and foil embossed on the front. It is a yearbook designed as a true reflection of the experience of students at

New Mexico Tech. In a time of social networking, with pictures and memories available "online," some may wonder if a yearbook is still necessary. For this very reason, a yearbook is more warranted than ever. Please consider donating to the Porphyry, which ultimately strengthens ties among students, administration, and faculty for years to come.

-Joaquin Roibal
*Student Association President
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801 Leroy Pl., Campus Box
AA
Attn: Joaquin Roibal
Socorro, NM 87802*



rankings

*Kiplinger's / Newsweek
Best 100 Colleges in
Value
#42 – New Mexico Tech
Most Desirable Small
Schools
#19 – New Mexico Tech
Most Desirable Rural
Schools
#10 – New Mexico Tech*

*U.S. News & World
Report
Best Universities in the
West
#17 – New Mexico Tech*

*Forbes' Best U.S.
Colleges
#344 – New Mexico Tech*

*Princeton Review
Included as a top U.S.
university*

*Top 50 Master's
Universities
25 – New Mexico Tech*

*Baccalaureate Origins of
Science and Engineering
Doctorate Recipients
(National Science
Foundation).
#15 – New Mexico Tech
(Tech ranks as **the top
public university in the
nation in this category.**)*

extremophiles

Biology Professor Probing Deep Earth For New Life Forms

Dr. Tom Kieft is on a quest to find extremophiles – especially those microbial critters that thrive in the deepest ecosystems on Earth.

The New Mexico Tech biology professor has two funded projects, one to explore the deep biosphere in mines in South Africa and one in South Dakota. He is also presenting research at the International Symposium on Deep Subsurface Microbiology in South Africa from January 17-24, 2011.

Kieft has two deep Earth expeditions planned for 2011 – one in South Dakota and one in South Africa.

In addition to the conference in South Africa, Kieft has an ongoing research project in South Africa. In June, he will be joined by Tech chemistry professor Dr. Michael Pullin and Tech master's student Sarah Hendrickson. The Tech trio will be among the team that drills into the



deep Earth to find more microbial ecosystems on another trip during June.

“In South Africa, the exciting find is microbial ecosystems that are separate from photosynthesis,” Kieft said. “These organisms get their energy from the products of rock-water interactions.”

Unlike surface and ocean ecosystems that depend on the products of photosynthesis, these

extreme, deep Earth biosystems depend on rock-derived hydrogen, sulfur and other elements as nutrients.

“We have found a new type of ecosystem on Earth,” Kieft said. “These are exciting finds. We’re finding novel life form and so far we know very little about them.”

He said that recent studies have shown that the majority of biomass on the

planet is subsurface – and all of that life is microscopic.

The known biosphere extends deeper than 3.7 kilometers below the surface, or 11,000 feet, Kieft said. However, the true constraining factor for microbial life is temperature; biologists believe the upper limit that microbes can withstand is about 121 degrees C, or 250 degrees F.

The proposed Deep Underground Science and Engineering Laboratory (DUSEL) in South Dakota has a price tag of about \$850 million, with funding to be shared by the National Science Foundation and the Department of Energy. The bulk of the funding is to be allocated for physics research, but a small percentage is intended for geology and microbiology work. Funded by the National Science Foundation, Kieft and David Bout of the University of Massachusetts are planning to descend to 7,400 feet below the surface in the Homestake Mine in South Dakota, where they’ll drill another 5,000 feet down in search of living organisms.

Scientists are quickly developing an understanding about these microbes. The first microbe to have its genome sequenced is *Desulforudis audaxviator*.

“This is life in the slow lane, but these organisms still metabolize and change their environment,” he said. “We’ve been working on the subsurface for more than 25

years, but there’s still much more we want to discover.”

Scientists have discovered bacteria and archaea that thrive in these environments. Kieft said further investigations are needed to know if viruses, protozoa, or fungi may be able to live in these ecosystems as well.

These strange new life forms in these extreme environments beg several questions of the scientists who are on the trail of these microbes. During a Biology Department seminar in November, Kieft said evolutionary scientists wonder if surface life arose from these subsurface extremophiles. Still more scientists wonder if these non-oxygen environments could serve as analogs for other planets. If life on Earth can exist in environments totally separated from photosynthesis, could other planets such as Mars, where the surface is inhospitable to life, also host subsurface microbial life forms?

Hendrickson is presenting a poster at the Carbon Cycling Conference

that compares several methods of extracting organic materials from the groundwater samples.



“Everything has to be uber-careful in an uber-dirty location,” Hendrickson said. “We’re collecting groundwater samples straight out of a borehole.”

The Witwatersrand Deep Microbiology Project operates in existing gold mines, which creates environmental and logistical obstacles for the scientists. Researchers descend to 3 kilometers beneath the surface and walk for a mile or more to reach sites where the miners have drilled into the surrounding rock. Some of the filtration must be done on site, with further extraction done at surface laboratories – either in South Africa or in the

United States, Kieft and Hendrickson said.

A first-year master’s student in hydrology, Hendrickson said the various applications of this research are exciting.

“This is a whole different ecosystem that we are seriously undereducated about,” she said. “These bacteria could be on every continent, but we don’t know yet. For the astrobiologists, this could help figure out what we should be looking for on other planets.”

These deep Earth microbes are similar to organisms that thrive around deep-sea hydrothermal vents, but have some characteristics that scientists have never seen before, Hendrickson said.

In addition to discussions of research methods and recent discoveries, the scientists at the South Africa conference will also discuss a global network of deep-Earth observatories – the Network of Inner Space Observatories – which would include installations on every continent.

Thomas Guengerich, New Mexico Tech public information, 575-835-5617

class of 1960 endowment fund



We have successfully completed the "CLASS OF 1960 ENDOWMENT FUND" campaign which started in May 2010, after 14 of us were fortunate to have been able to return to New Mexico Tech and participate in the 2010 Commencement exercises as a part of the class of 1960 Golden Anniversary Celebration. As we undertook the challenges of this fund-raising campaign, we had two primary objectives. First, our hope was to have 100% participation from those that were in attendance at NM Tech in May. The second challenge was to raise sufficient funds to allow an Endowment to be established. The required amount to reach this goal was \$15,000.

I am extremely pleased that I can report to you all that both of our goals/objectives have not only been met; but exceeded. This was raised with class contributions, and matching Corporate contributions.

George H. Westbrook
George H. Westbrook

John R. Dowdle
John R. Dowdle

I want to congratulate all of you and tell you how tremendously grateful we are for your generous donations in setting up this endowment that should go on forever! I secretly hope that every class following yours will follow your lead. You are a perfect example of how much can be accomplished when a group of people set their minds to accomplish something significant. FANTASTIC JOB!

Colleen Guengerich
Colleen Guengerich
Director of Advancement

- | | | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| John R. Dowdle | William Howes | Edward W. Ericksen, Jr. | Edward A. Dire |
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memories of a miner

Gold Pan is proud to introduce Mr. James "Jim" Doty, treasured alumnus, master of many trades, teller of terrific tales and a genuine good guy. Jim has been sending his recollections of New Mexico School of Mines to the Gold Pan staff periodically. In this edition, we're sharing one of his colorful tales from the 1940s.



I am rapidly approaching 85, but I thought it might be interesting for students to know my history. I was about half way through the 11th grade when I joined the Navy. In 1945, my communications team was doing practice landings on Guam, with the 3rd Marine Division. We had just come from Okinawa, so it wasn't hard to figure what we were there for. We had finished and were waiting for our ship to return, when the atomic bomb was dropped. While we were waiting, one of

my team asked me what I liked in school; I said history and math. He said "you ought to like geology"; I said "what's geology"? He said "It's the history of the earth and there's math in it". I decided to investigate so I asked my team officer to help me write a letter explaining my position (unlettered and dumb). They wrote back and said "come see us". In a few months, I was discharged and proceeded into civilian life. I discovered that the ability to send messages by blinking a light or waving your arms didn't have much of a selling point in civilian life. Therefore I took a bus across the river (I lived on the Mississippi), stuck out my thumb and

hitch-hiked to Socorro. It was summer, but the staff and a professor talked to me and told me if I took college algebra and trig in summer-school, they would accept me as a "more mature student". They didn't know what they had done, but I did, and later, they did.

Q
When I was in my second year, we were sitting on the steps of Fitch Hall (the mess hall was in the basement), a guy came up and said "they're going to offer a course in geophysics", I asked "what in the hell is geophysics"? He said "I don't know, but they said you have to be smarter than hell, and they make a lot of money". I said "I'M GONNA BE

A GEOPHYSICIST!" I did and I never made a better decision. The guy was wrong on both counts (in my case), but I wouldn't trade my life for anything. I married my wife on Friday 13, 1950, and graduated in May. We had enough money for her to take the bus home to her parents place and I bummed a ride to Los Angeles. I didn't get a job until August, so I "bucked" hay in the San Joaquin Valley and rode the trucks down to L.A. to look for work. I got a job with Shell Oil in August. My final position was District Geophysicist. Times were slow so, after 13 years, I quit to go into computer programming. I worked there for



Fitch Hall, 1950

two years and since geophysics had become digital, I went back to geophysics. I worked for Texas Instruments for 13 years (as assistant computer center manager, Europe-Africa- Middle-East marine operations manager, Western Hemisphere marine-operations manager, and manager of marine Quality Control) and in the process got an MBA from SMU and sat and passed the test for CPA. I decided I would go into business for myself, so my wife and I moved to California to make our fortune.

Unfortunately, California would not accept my experience, so I became a small business consultant in the Silicon Valley. This was at a time of a mini-depression, so my main business was with the IRS to keep my clients from shutting down because they hadn't paid their social security payments.

After about four years of this, I got a call asking me if I wanted to be Division Geophysicist for a major North

American oil company. I, of course, hesitated for a microsecond and said yes. This was when the Beaufort Sea sale was big. When that cratered, the company asked me if I would be Chief Geophysicist for China. My wife and I said yes—we were there a little over



E.J. Workman, 1950

four years and, since I was 60 and oil was in one of its periodic lows, I was “asked” to retire. I did, but about 9 months later I got a call asking me if I would be a consultant in Malaysia. I said yes, and was there about 2 years. To make a long story short, I continued consulting (in Papua New Guinea and Pakistan) for about four years. When I think about



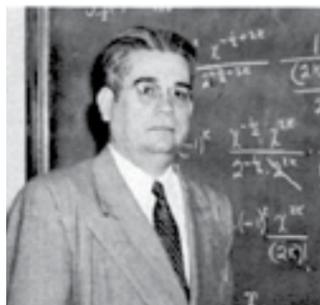
Dr. John Hart, 1950

what the “Mines” has meant to me, I am more than amazed. My wife and I lived on four



Dr. Marvin H. Wilkening, 1950

continents and I worked or did business in over 40 countries. We enjoyed every minute (well most



Dr. Rafael Sanchez-Diaz, 1950

every) and we had a ball.

Q

The year before I went to Mines was a disaster for the school, and I heard they thought about shutting it down. Thankfully, they brought Dr. Workman in, as president, and he hired a bunch of retired professors and young “brains” to come to Mines. Some I remember very well—Dr. Hart to head physics and Dr. Wilkening as his assistant are two, and Dr. Rafael Sanchez-Diaz to head the math department. I remember him so well; he was CRUEL. In those days, we had labs five days a week and classes six. Friday night, my buddy and I (he majored in Geological Engineering) had been down at the Capital Bar until closing; (mostly for atmosphere and intelligent conversation) and we didn't get home until maybe 12:30. I had a 7:00 o'clock class in differential equations. Obviously, I was a little tired (with a slight headache, and a

bit of an upset stomach), so I slept in (euphemism for passed out). Monday morning, I was in the class and Dr. Sanchez-Diaz asked where I was on Saturday—I said I was dreadfully sick, which meant hungover to the eyeballs. I asked if I should make up the class—HE said “No, Meester Doty, just write a paper” on something—I have forgotten what, but it was, in effect, another term paper! I remonstrated that I had already written one term paper and he replied “Meester Doty, if you don't do it, you are asking permission to take this course over again” Needless to say, I wrote the damned paper. If I had searched the world over for a thousand years, I couldn't have found a better place to get an education.

Q

I thought I was finished, but it's hot today, so I didn't play golf (I've still ambitions of going on the tour—yeahhh). Anyway, this incident crossed my mind and I started to chuckle. There are number of old mines at

the foot of the mountains on school property. One of our classes included the rudiments of mine surveying. As I remember,



Needle-nose, 1951

the class took place at the very end of summer. We had two dogs on the campus. Nobody knew where they came from, but they were the school pets. Needle-nose was a horrible mixture, but everybody loved him. Tom was some kind of pointer mix, he was a pet, too. Early that summer, the dogs had been chasing a rabbit (at full blast) and the rabbit turned left real fast. Needle-nose turned with him, but Tom, being much bigger kept going, crashed into a fence post and broke his leg. We (the school) took him to a vet and they put him a cast. He hobbled around

almost all summer and they finally took the cast off. We were going out to the mines for a class, and Tom and Needle-nose were in the back of the pick-up with us. We bounced along at about 20mph when a rabbit ran across the road—Needle-nose was immediately up and charged after him; Tom immediately followed. Suddenly Tom, in mid-air, realized what he had done; his ears went out and he shat all over himself. He came out dirty but a much smarter dog.

Some day, I'll have to tell how I met my wife.

Q

These days, Jim Doty lives in Bakersfield, Calif., an oil town where he is at home among “a lot of old vagabonds who sit and listen to each other's lies. I, of course, am known as the final word for truth.”

Gold Pan is saving for its next issue other Jim Doty stories, including how he met and married the beautiful Leta, who was finishing high school in Socorro and staying

with relatives—her aunt was a school teacher and her uncle was the Baptist preacher.

But before we momentarily leave the company of this chronicler, we pass on his advice:

Q

The one thing I would like to pass on—you probably have gathered that I was not hesitant to try something new. I hope that “Mines” passes that attitude to the young people who pass through.

NEVER, NEVER, be locked in just because it feels safe. Go for the Gold!

**Jim Doty NMSM '50
jimdoty@mac.com
and
Valerie Kimble
vkimble@gmail.com**

If you would like to submit an article or your recollections of your time at New Mexico Tech, please contact Thomas Guengerich at tguengerich@admin.nmt.edu.

49ers 2010

Zombies want brains



The 2010 49ers was a huge success! The New Mexico Tech Office for Advancement hosted an alumni reception that, though it was cold and windy, was well attended.



The Classes of 1969-71 celebrated their 40th reunion with a float in the 49ers parade and a reunion picnic in Water Canyon.



Plans for next year's celebration include multi-year reunion events, tours of campus and research divisions at Tech, and many more opportunities to reconnect with classmates and faculty.



where are they now?

GOLDPAN CATCHES UP WITH GEORGE SCHMALTZ

Editor's Note: For this inaugural issue of the newly designed Gold Pan, we went one-on-one with George Schmaltz, New Mexico Tech's version of the Big Man On Campus. George was always ready to lend his hand – from chairing student clubs to ballroom dancing.

Valerie Kimble

1. Where are you from, and why did you choose Tech?

Gallup, NM. Growing up in New Mexico, I wanted to be close to home, but not too close. I originally came to Tech for MESA and a summer mini-course. I met some great people that summer and they really got me thinking about Socorro.

2. What degrees did you earn, and in what years?

After high school, I thought I might get the basics out of the way at



Tech and then transfer. But Socorro grew on me. Seven years later, I actually left town, with two bachelor's degrees (Computer Science and Electrical Engineering in 2004) and a Master's in Engineering Management (with a focus on Information Assurance) in 2006.

3. You were very active in the Newman Center and in San Miguel Church -- what other activities did you pursue while at Tech?

Campus activities and clubs are what kept me going at Tech. I started out with the Hi Tech Ambassadors program and volunteering for Science Fair and campus tours.

Then I became involved in SPLAT (Student Produced Leisure Activities at Tech), the Newman Club, founding St. Patrick's Newman Center, starting the IEEE Branch on campus, president of Tau Beta Pi, and participated in the Ballroom Dance Club. In grad school I worked with Club Macey and the Graduate Student Association.

4. What are you doing now? And, how did your Tech education help you meet your career goals?

I'm now an Engineer for the Department of Defense, working on computer network security. I test computer security

tools and ensure that new hardware and software can operate in the current DoD computing environment. New Mexico Tech was a great springboard and helped me get my current job. Working under Dr. (Lorie) Liebrock, I was part of the Scholarship for Service - Cyber Corps program which helped fund my master's degree. In return for the two years of school, I had to work for the government in information security for two years... While my commitment has ended, I'm still enjoying the job and all that it introduced me to.

5. What one thing do you miss most about Tech and/or Socorro?

A consistent supply of green chile and visiting Socorro Springs Brew Pub. With various meetings and luncheons, I think I ate at the Brew Pub at least once every week.

6. Was there a particular faculty member or advisor who you'd like to commend, and if so, what was

it about that person that made him or her a valuable mentor?

I still remember lots of individual things from Tech... Dr. Judy Holcomb Stuteville and different items in both computer ethics and management classes... she had a way of showing she cared about students and helped prepare us for some real world situations in Ethics. Dr. Liebrock was also helpful in Computer Science... setting the bar very high with expectations of her students, but also helping us learn and achieve those goals.

7. Where do you see yourself in another 10 years? What other career goals do you hope to achieve?

I think I'll still be working for the Department of Defense or U.S. government somewhere. One thing I've noticed is that there are so many different careers from just being in one part of the department—if you get bored doing research, you can try management, or

customer engagements, or policy, ... I've enjoyed traveling for work and would like to take an assignment outside the building... whether working with other government agencies or other partners.

8. What music is on your iPod? What are you currently reading? What is your current favorite hobby or pastime?

Music is completely random for me... country, rock, oldies, easy listening. Right now I'm switching between a new Celtic CD from Christmas, Glee, and Jack Johnson. Different music helps me deal with different parts of life... it is always nice to turn up the music and dig into work with no one to bother you. I love reading and don't do as much of it as I'd like right now. My current books are the autobiography of George Wendt and the latest Paulo Coelho. Lately I've had a passion for board games and getting people together to just enjoy games or cards. Some of

my favorites (like Ticket to Ride) can be very easy to learn and very addicting.

9. How did you deal with the stress of college life at Tech? In other words, what did you do to unwind, or to counter the stresses of calculus, chemistry and physics?

The best stress relief at Tech was ballroom dance! Once I got hooked, I made sure my Thursday nights would be free and would just go dance to get the stress out of my system. It was great to dance with Techies, townies, and faculty and just cool off for awhile. Dancing at Tech was always fun because everyone did it for the love of dancing and was more than happy to teach you a new dance or some cool moves.

10. Are you active in the Alumni Association? What, if any, events have brought you back to Socorro?

I was on the Alumni Association Board, but haven't been active in the



George Schmaltz and Erin O'Rourke, President's Club Dinner

last few years. It was great to see Tony Ortiz at a gathering a few months back in D.C. We caught up on Tech, Socorro, and more... There are a dozen or so Techies from my generation that are sprinkled throughout Maryland, D.C., and Virginia. We try to get together at least every few months to make some New Mexican food and catch up. Anytime one of us goes home for vacation we bring back chile to share. I've only been back to Socorro once for the President's Club Dinner. It was a blast to be back. Most of my trips have kept me in northern New Mexico lately.

calendar of events

March 21 Presidential Chamber Music Series

7:30 p.m. at Macey Center.



Trios for Oboe, Viola and Piano. Violist Willy Sucre will be joined by oboist Thomas O'Connor and pianist Jacquelyn Helin, to perform Schilffieder, Op. 28 by August Klughardt & Deux Rapsodies by Charles Martin Loeffler. FREE concert.

March 25 Slide Celtic Band

7:30 p.m., Macey Center. Traditional Celtic musicians with attitude. Performing Arts Series.



\$16/Adult
\$14/Senior (65 & over)
\$12/Youth (17 & under).
FREE to Tech students
with ID.

April 1 Karen Muller

7:30 p.m. at Macey Center.



This Swiss-born author, filmmaker, photographer and adventurer set out to travel the world's historic highways. She is a lecturer for the National Geographic Society and Smithsonian.

Contact Info: New Mexico Tech Performing Arts Series. 575.835.5688
<http://www.nmtpas.org>
Email
pas@admin.nmt.edu

April 8 Cirque Montage

7:30 p.m., Macey Center. A collage of traditional and



cutting-edge circus acts featuring former Cirque du Soleil artists. Performing Arts Series. \$14/Adult; \$12/Senior (65 & over); \$10/Youth (17 & under). FREE to New Mexico T students with ID.

Contact: New Mexico Tech Performing Arts Series. 575.835.5688
<http://www.nmtpas.org>
Email:
pas@admin.nmt.edu

April 16-17 5th Annual Tour of Socorro

Off-road bike tour. Visit



www.socorro.com/ssr/tour/ for more details.

April 29 Metales M5 Brass Quintet

7:30 p.m., Macey Center. M5, a lot of brass, a lot of music and a lot of fun! This Mexican brass quintet



breaks the barriers of musical genre as they take the blues to the opera, Bach to the roads of Michoacan: fresh, funny, extraordinary. Performing Arts Series. \$16/Adult \$14/Senior (65 & over); \$12/Youth (17 & under). FREE to Tech students with ID.

Contact New Mexico Tech Performing Arts Series. 575.835.5688
www.nmtpas.org
Email:
pas@admin.nmt.edu

May 6 The New Mexi Chords

7:30 p.m. at Macey Center. A men's chorus specializing

in a cappella singing in the barbershop style. An evening of spectacular vocal entertainment that includes a repertoire of special arrangements and old favorites.

Contact
New Mexico Tech Performing Arts Series. 575.835.5688
www.nmtpas.org
Email:
pas@admin.nmt.edu



May 7 & 8 11th Annual Mother's Day Pow Wow



Mother's Day weekend at Sedillo Park in Socorro, New Mexico. Event organizer and contact: Donna Monette. 505.881.8847

May 7-12 Finals Week



May 13 Socorro Area Alumni Reception



5 p.m. Reception at the golf course pavilion,
6 p.m. Dinner

May 14 Commencement



Class of 1961: 50 Year Reunion



The Office of Advancement has started preparation for the 50 year reunion of the class of 1961. The event will be over the weekend of graduation, May 13-15, 2011.

Dr. Dennis "Doc" Stanley is helping us coordinate the event. If you are planning on attending the 50 year reunion on the weekend of May 14th and would like to be recognized at the graduation ceremony, please RSVP to Michael Olguin as soon as possible. We will need information from you regarding the gown fitting. RSVP by emailing alumni@admin.nmt.edu or molguin@admin.nmt.edu. You can also reach us by phone at 575.835.5525. The registrars office will need your information no later than March 31st.

We will send more details as the event approaches. See you there!

Office of Advancement
801 Leroy Place
Socorro, NM 87801 or
Doc Stanley: jeandoc@sdc.org

Visit www.nmt.edu/advancement/4087 for a list of names with missing information and event information.
alumni@admin.nmt.edu
or 575.835.5525

June 6-11 Socorro Open

New Mexico Tech Golf Course A 54 hole event sanctioned by the Sun Country PGA. Register early to join the



field of professionals and amateurs competing for top honors against the challenging New Mexico Tech Golf Course.

Or put on your hiking boots and try the Elfego Shootout. The first 6 entrants will tee off from Socorro Peak at 7,243 feet above sea level for this one hole shootout.



The Socorro Open tournament entry fee includes a steak dinner, breakfast and tournament gifts. Registration deadline is May 31st.

Visit www.socorroopen.com for more details

people you know

1950s

Morris Worley (B.S. in mining engineering, '58) has had two articles published in the Journal of the Mining History Association. The first article was in the 2008 volume, titled "Roll Front to Yellowcake: Innovations in Uranium Mining; Recollections of the Highland Uranium Operations." The second was in the 2009 volume, titled "The Cane Creek Mine Disaster: Personal Observations. To show I'm not just a relic of mining history, I satisfactorily passed the exam to become a Certified Mine Safety Professional in October 2009," Worley wrote.

He also manages the zeolite mining operations in Arizona for UOP, which is a Honeywell company. "It's a good way to keep my miner's boots on!" he wrote. "I hope to see some fellow alums at the SME meeting in Phoenix."

1960s

Barney P. Popkin (Groundwater Hydrology, '65) is currently a visiting scientist and affiliate with

the University of Arizona, Hydrology and Water Resources Administration. Barney has had a typically diverse year of international consulting in water, wastewater, solid and hazardous waste, and environmental management. He wrote and negotiated Administrative Action Memos to streamline how 3,600 community livelihoods and stabilization grants worth \$168 million could meet U.S. environmental regulations in Afghanistan and Yemen. He also wrote environmental compliance procedures and program management plans as well as crop-pest-disease control manuals.

He facilitated the Programmatic Environmental Assessment for an \$800-million road construction and community capacity building project in Afghanistan. He has drafted agricultural, health, resource recovery, and water and wastewater grant concepts, and made presentations to donors and national strategy teams on innovative agricultural, soil and water management

strategies for Yemen. He has trained agricultural extension workers in soil and water science and pest management and environmental procedures. He has designed irrigation wells and fields in Afghanistan.

He facilitated approval of the environmental assessment of the Republic of Georgia Oil and Gas Corp.'s 30-km natural gas pipeline. He has advised agencies and donors on water and water-quality management in response to the Haitian earthquake and Pakistani floods. He has continued to lead the LinkedIn Environmental Marketing Association of Arizona group.

Barney has submitted articles on Middle East Water Crises to Earth, Geological Control of Afghanistan Agricultural Production and Markets to The Professional Geologist, and Renewal Energy at Home; Case Study at International Village, Pristina, Kosovo to European Geologist magazines.

Barney lives in Tucson with his wife and their brindle boxer, Buster Brown.

1970s

Chris (Mathews) Hall, (Class of '71), passed away June 20, 2010, in Spring Creek, Nev. She is survived by her husband, **Tim Hall** (Class of '71), three sons and three grandchildren. She was a former teacher in the Socorro school system and helped form the Socorro Community Theater.

1980s

Dr. Phil Carpenter (M.S., '81 and PhD, '84) is a professor of environmental geophysics, engineering geology, seismology at Northern Illinois University. Dr. Carpenter's applied research specializes in geophysical imaging of karst features and developing methods for geophysical (noninvasive) assessment of landfills and detection of pollution in adjacent aquifers. Field sites include locations across the United States and China. He is recognized for his advances in geophysical assessment of landfills, mine wastes, karst features, and detection of pollution in adjacent aquifers (midwest and eastern United States, China), coupled with



Dr. Phil Carpenter seismic monitoring of ambient seismic noise and earthquake occurrence in the upper Midwest (northern Illinois, southern Wisconsin, and eastern Iowa). www.niu.edu/geology/people/carpenter.shtml

LouAnn C. Burnett (B.S. in biology, '82) is the President-Elect of the American Biological Safety Association. She will preside over ABSA during 2012 as President. Burnett is a staff member with the International Biological Threat Reduction (IBTR) program at Sandia National Laboratories in Albuquerque. The IBTR team members work across the globe to protect against the accidental or intentional misuse of the life sciences to harm people,

agriculture, or other critical resources. She previously managed biological safety programs at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tenn., and at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She is also a Certified Biological Safety Professional, as designated by ABSA.

She serves as a member of ABSA's Council and is the co-chair and primary designer of the 5-day course Principles and Practices of Biosafety, which was developed for biosafety professionals just entering the field. She is the recipient of ABSA's 2003 Everett Hanel Jr. Presidential Award for promoting the field of biological safety and fostering, by example, the high professional standards of the association's membership.

Scott Phelps

(Geophysics, '85) is a school board member for the Pasadena Unified School District in California. He is currently a university supervisor of student teachers for Cal State Northridge, an Adjunct Professor of

Mathematics and Physics at the University of La Verne and a consultant doing external evaluations of federal and state school reform grants received by school districts.



Scott Phelps

A career educator, he lives in Northwest Pasadena with his wife Lisa and their two children. Phelps earned his master's in geophysics from Cal Tech after graduating from New Mexico Tech. He has won numerous awards for teaching and curriculum development during his career. His profile as a school board member is on the PUSD website.

Bob Swanson

(M.S. in petroleum engineering, '89) joined GeoGlobal Energy, a

geothermal investment and development company, as drilling manager, According to a company press release, Swanson has 20 years of experience in the geothermal and oil industry, with expertise in the creation and management of resource verification programs. Swanson was formerly the vice president of drilling engineering services for Thermasource, one of the largest geothermal service companies in the United States. Prior to Thermasource, he worked for 16 years at Unocal and Chevron. He has managed geothermal programs in the United States, Philippines, Indonesia, and the Middle East. At GGE, Swanson will oversee all drilling activities at the company's recent discovery at Tolhuaca, Chile. He will also provide support at four other Chilean prospect areas, as well as the company's U.S. projects.

1990s

Daniel Holcomb (B.S. in Management, 1995) earned a Juris Doctorate degree from the University of New Mexico School of Law in

1998. In 1999, he joined the Drug Enforcement Administration as a Special Agent. "Since then, I have completed tours of duty in Imperial County, California, El Paso, Texas, Las Vegas, Nevada and on the Western Pacific island of Saipan, located in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. In 2010, I left Saipan to become a Special Agent Polygraph Examiner with the DEA, and I am once again stationed in El Paso, Texas."

Dennis Walsh (Management, '96) and **Delilah Vega Walsh** (B.S. in psychology, '97 and '10 M.S. in engineering management) proudly welcomed an addition to their family. Sarah Elizabeth was born on January 22, 2010. She joins big brothers Jake (13) and Josh (7).

Jason Turner (Psychology, '97) is managing an acoustic folk band, Resilience Road. Visit the official website at www.resilienceroad.com to hear the music and watch videos. Jason will also

give a discount for digital downloads to all alumni from Tech who email bexmusic@live.com. This e-mail address is being protected from spambots. You need JavaScript enabled to view it .

2000s

Josh Crook (B.S. in geology, '01 and M.S. in mineral engineering, '08) passed away in Santa Fe. Mr. Crook had recently accepted a job with Strathmore Uranium in Santa Fe. He had previously worked for Neutron Energy in Albuquerque.

Alexander Rand (B.S. in math, B.S. in computer science, '04) and Barbara Anthony were married on August 1, 2009 in Los Alamos. They currently reside in Georgetown, Texas, where Alex is a post-doc at the



University of Texas-Austin and Barbara is an assistant professor of computer science at Southwestern University. New Mexico Tech alumni attending included **Joseph Young** (B.S., M.S. in math, '04), **Carsten Steinebach** (B.S. in math, '04) and **Ivana Gorgievska** (B.S. in math, '05).

Luiza Gutierrez (M.S. in Mineral Engineering, '06) and **Remke van Dam** (Postdoc in E&ES, '05) are putting Skype to the test.

Luiza works for Golder Associates and recently moved to Australia, for a two-year assignment in the Perth office of the company. She works primarily on the design of mine tailings, but also is involved in other geotechnical work including urban planning and landfills.

Remke has been an Assistant Professor at Michigan State University since 2006 working in hydrology and applied geophysics. The couple married in Socorro in 2005.

"Two years is a long time, but we make the long trip

to see each other once every 3 to 4 months," Remke wrote. "Skype does the rest!"

Khoi Nguyen (B.S. in chemistry, B.S. in math, '06) finished his Ph.D. in physical chemistry at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor in December 2009. He is now serving as assistant professor at the International University, Vietnam National University.

Carmelita Cereceres Wasson (Technical Communication, '07) and **Steven Wasson** (Electrical Engineering, '07) had their first child, Sybella De La Luz Wasson on February 14, 2010, at 8:28 pm. She weighed 7 lbs, 6 oz and measured 18 inches long. Steven is currently working at Applied Technology Associates as an embedded systems engineer and Carmelita works for Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC) as a technical communication analyst.



The New Mexico Tech Alumni Website is now live. You will find some useful features and easy navigation around the redesigned site. Here is a quick highlight of what you can find on the new website:

Alumni Directory. Thinking of an old classmate? You can now find your classmates and friends online. You can also put your information in the alumni directory to allow other people to search for you. You can put as much or as little information as you like.

Easy access to the giving page. This is a secure site that allows you to give easily and freely from the comfort of your home with just a click of the mouse.

Where does your money go? This section will highlight students who are currently receiving endowed scholarships so you can see where and who is benefiting from your generosity.

The events calendar will allow you to see where we will be holding alumni receptions across the country. You will also be able to see what events are going on around campus.

You can link up to our alumni interaction Facebook page. Here we will have discussions, news, and contests allowing alumni to interact with each other in real time. The website is www.nmt.edu/advancement. See you there!

Four years after launching a fund-raising effort, New Mexico Tech officially broke ground on the new Macey Family Children's Center on October 27.

The new \$1.5 million center will be purpose-built as a children's educational center, serving pre-school youngsters age 2 to 5. University officials and major donors held a brief ceremony with golden shovels, while about a dozen children used bright-colored plastic shovels to mark the occasion.

"All of this would not have been possible but for all the generous individuals who donated to the building fund, but most particular, our strong benefactors, Bill and Cheryl Macey," university President Dr. Daniel H. Lopez said. "The Maceys pledged to match all other donations, plus supplied start-up funding and capital. Without that sort of undying support, we wouldn't be ready to build such a great facility."

Bill Macey graduated from New Mexico School of Mines in 1942. He has

been New Mexico Tech's staunchest supporter over the years. He donated more than \$1 million for the construction of the Macey Center in the 1980s. Macey has also staked matching funds for other donations for the construction of a new Children's Center. Mr. Macey also supports Tech's highest academic award, the Macey Scholarship, which is a highly-competitive \$5,000 award given to four Tech students each year.

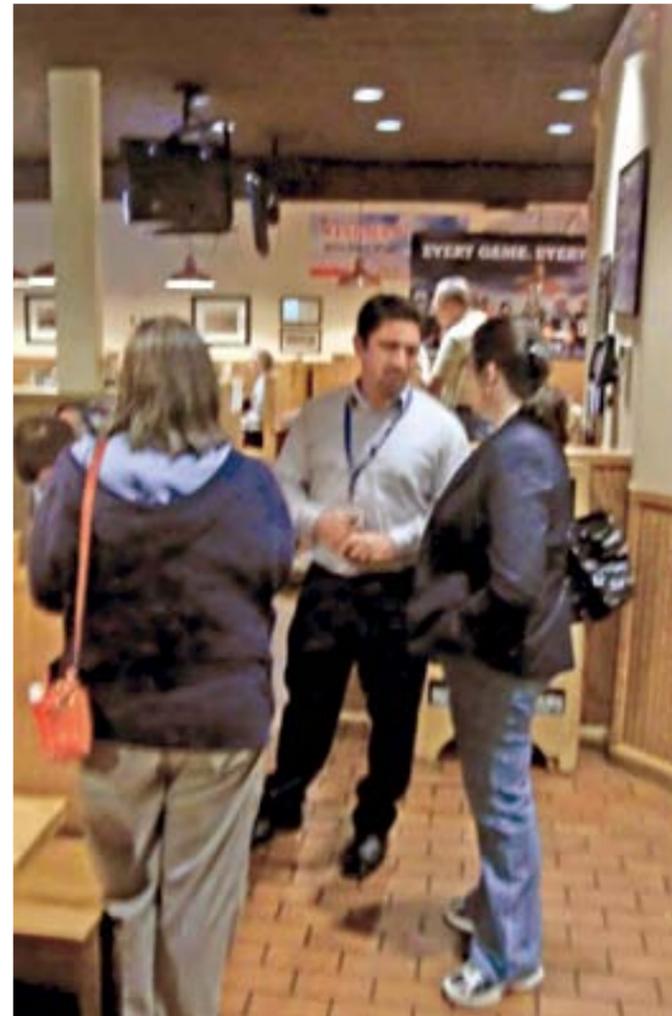
Mr. Macey said he first got the idea after making a small donation to the Center in 2006. The new Center will have 6,000 square-feet of indoor space and 9,142 square-feet of outside area. The Center will also increase its capacity from 32 to 48 children.



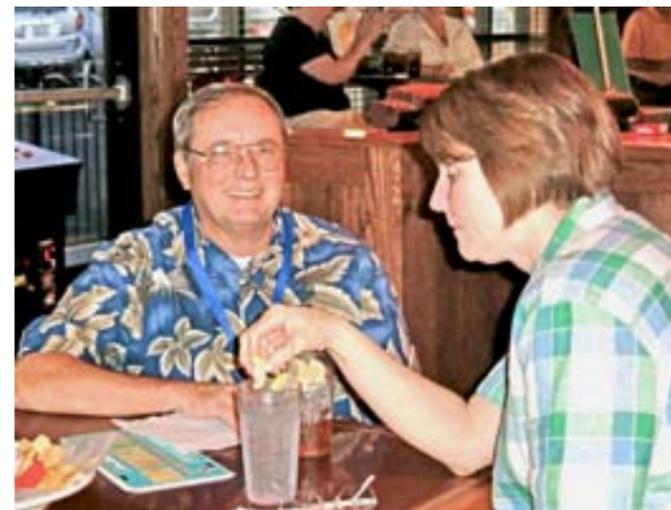
alumni events in bethesda. . .



The Advancement Office staff has increased the number of alumni receptions around the nation in the past year. Successful, well-attended receptions have been held in Tucson, Las Vegas, Bethesda, Seattle, Reno, San Jose, Albuquerque, Denver Washington, D.C. and other cities.



. . . and tucson



The functions provide an excellent time to connect with fellow Techies in your area and get caught up with Advancement Office happenings.

The calendar of events is online at <http://www.nmt.edu/advancement>.



in memoriam



Dr. Osman Inal
1940-2010

Saturday, Dec. 11. Dr. Osman T. Inal passed away at his home after a long illness.

“Dr. Inal was a superb teacher, an outstanding researcher and a close personal friend,” university president Dr. Daniel H. López said. “The entire New Mexico Tech community is saddened by his death and he will be sorely missed.”

Dr. Inal joined the faculty at Tech in 1972 as an associate professor of materials engineering and earned full professorship in 1980. He added the title of associate vice president and dean of engineering in 2001. He also served as department chairman for more than 15 years.

He was a prolific researcher, with more than 230

publications to his credit as author or co-author. He advised 40 master’s students and 18 doctoral students during his time at Tech. “Osman’s enthusiasm for working with students and guiding them from undergraduate through post-graduate work was unmatched,” López said. “His dedication not only to students, but to this institution was total, deep and unabiding. Our farewells go to our great friend.”

Osman Tugay Inal was born on Leap Day, February 29, 1940, in Turkey. He was especially proud of having a birthday on Leap Day. On his most recent birthday in 2008, he accentuated the fact that he was celebrating his 17th birthday!

“Dr. Inal’s profession and career at New Mexico Tech was a huge part of his life,” said his fellow professor in materials Dr. Paul Fuierer. “His unique personality is legendary among students. As long-time chair of the Materials Engineering Department, Osman’s legacy will last for years to come.”

Dr. Inal’s specialties included explosive welding and forming, polycrystalline

intermetallics, plasma and laser surface modification and the development of reactive solders and braze alloys.

“He and his family took in every international student who came to Tech. He gave selflessly to helping them financially and with culturalization to the United States. He was a deeply caring person for students. This is a loss of a good friend to New Mexico Tech – a loyal and dear friend in every way possible” said Dr. Peter Gerity, vice president of academic affairs.

Over the years, Dr. Inal established a pipeline of Turkish students who came to Tech, including several of his nephews. He also was an effective recruiter domestically.

“He’s well known and has many friends throughout the United States,” Hirschfeld said. “He’s closely related to many researchers at Los Alamos and Sandia national laboratories. Many of his students have gone on to very prestigious positions.” He was an active member in many professional and academic societies and regularly volunteered for

service to New Mexico Tech, professional societies and government committees.

Dr. Inal won the university’s Distinguished Researcher Award at Tech in 1989. From the Alumni Association, he won the Distinguished Faculty Award in 2001 – the same year he was inducted as a Fellow in ASM International, the largest materials professional organization. Hirschfeld said Inal’s fellowship with ASM was an elite post and a crowning achievement for his career.

Dr. Gerity said Dr. Inal’s research is recognized and cited worldwide. He was continuously invited to deliver keynote addresses at international conferences throughout his career, he said.

Dr. López said, “As Adlai Stephenson said on the occasion of Dag Hammarskjöld’s death, ‘We will mourn his death until the time of ours.’”

If you would like to donate to the Dr. Osman Inal fund, please contact the Office for Advancement at 575.835.5616 or email alumni@admin.nmt.edu.

Stephen Adair passed away on Dec. 8, 2009, at the age of 55, at his home in Santa Fe. Steve earned his bachelor’s degree in petroleum engineering at New Mexico Tech in his 40s. He was a member of Tau Beta Pi, the engineering honor society. He had an exciting career in the petroleum industry, working on numerous offshore exploration oil rigs and natural gas fields. He traveled the world extensively. Steve loved the water. His passions were windsurfing and kiteboarding. He spent much of his life on the lakes of New Mexico and the ocean off the coast of Maui. He maintained a residence at Makawao, Hawaii, near Kanaha Beach.

Marion Lee Andrews, Class of 1959, passed away May 6, 2010 from complications of cancer. He was delighted to have been able to attend his 50th class graduation reunion in May of 2009.

Jack Desvaux, age 91, a 1941 graduate of the New Mexico School of Mines, passed away on

May 11, 2010. He was associated with ASARCO for 35 years in a variety of technical and supervisory positions. Jack was mine superintendent at Ground Hog mine in Vanadium. Following several promotions and transfers, he served 10 years as manager of the eastern division of the company’s exploration department, headquartered in Knoxville, Tenn., Prior to his retirement, Jack was an administrator in the exploration department in New York. Jack traveled extensively and, at various times, had homes in Arizona, New Mexico, Peru, Tennessee, and New York. Jack retired to Silver City in 1978, where he had a wide range of interests, enjoyed outdoor activity, and was an avid fisherman. He was active in many local clubs, the American Institute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers, and a past member of the New York Mining Club. Jack was also a part time consultant to the mining industry with assignments in Alaska and the Philippines.

Clyde Mitchell Dubbs, emeritus professor of mathematics at New Mexico Tech, passed away unexpectedly at his Albuquerque home on June 11, 2010.

Dubbs, who probably is best remembered by thousands of former Tech students for his trademark vandyke beard and his personable teaching style, established a reputation as a teacher, first and foremost: an educator who always valued teaching students above teaching subject material.

Born October 21, 1933, Dubbs earned his bachelor’s and master’s degrees at Wichita State University, where he became a math instructor. In 1967, a friend suggested that he “test the employment waters” at a job fair being held in conjunction with an annual math society meeting in Houston.

“New Mexico Tech’s was one of the most appealing job offers made to me at that meeting,” he said, “so, I took it.”

His goal was to generate an

enthusiasm for learning in his students. Dubbs never considered himself one of the “tough” professors at Tech, but he did concede that some of the courses he taught may have been difficult.

He related the story of one student who, when filling out one of his course evaluations at the end of the semester, wrote that the best aspect of the class had been that, “The instructor really knows what he’s talking about,” while the worst aspect of the class had been that, “The instructor is the only one who knows what he’s talking about.”

Clyde was loved by his family, friends, students, neighbors and cats. He was a Korean War era veteran and avid cyclist.

Barry Preston Glass, a 1970 alumnus with a Master’s in Science Teaching, passed away on March 14, 2010. Barry loved history, traveling, riding trains and with his brother Wayne shared a great admiration for the Baltimore Orioles. He enjoyed exploring New

the last word

Omar Soliman



Mexico and was proud to have traveled all the state highways. He was a devoted educator, starting in 1967 teaching high school and college and was lastly a founding board member of Nuestros Valores.

Christine A. Hall, a 1971 alumna, passed away on June 20, 2010.

Joshua "Poco" Kamas, 33, passed away November 6, 2010, in Houston, Texas. (Petroleum and Natural Gas Engineering '05).

Josh was born October 23, 1977, in Wisconsin. After graduating from Tech, he began his career with Marathon Oil Co. in Houston as a drilling engineer, which included assignments in the Gulf of Mexico, West Africa and the continental U.S. Josh continued to support his alma mater by working with the American Association of Drilling Engineers (AADE) to provide funding for continuing education classes and the establishment of an AADE student chapter.



Joshua "Poco" Kamas

Memorials in his name and may be mailed to Souad Letcher, P.O. Box 1942 Roswell, NM 88202. Monies will be donated to a charity in Lebanon providing education and medical services for under privileged children.

Friends may pay respects online at www.lagronefuneralchapel.com.

Bernard Mahony a 1952 petroleum engineering graduate, passed away on May 20, 2010. According to his daughter, Colleen Mahony-Meinke, he had an adventurous life and traveled widely.

Michael George Mashaw passed away on April 21,

2010, at the age of 36. He was a 1997 graduate.

Shannon Shaw, a 1986 alumnus in petroleum engineering, passed away on Aug. 31, 2009 at his home in Corrales, NM, from melanoma. Shannon came to New Mexico Tech after graduating from Carlsbad High School and attending Texas Tech. His first professional job was with the BLM in Carlsbad, followed by the Mineral Management Service in Camarillo, Calif. In 2007, he returned to the BLM as supervising petroleum engineer with duties in New Mexico, Texas, Kansas, and Oklahoma.

(Jo) Bob Trout, who earned his MST at New Mexico Tech in 1975, died April 17, 2010, of congestive heart failure at Gerald Champion Hospital in Alamogordo, N.M.

Bob was born June 6, 1933, in Roswell, N.M.

When the Korean War broke out, Bob joined the Naval Reserves. He remained in the Reserves for 16 years. With an electronics background, the

navy tapped him to teach electronics. He found he loved teaching and made it his life's work.

He began his education at NMSU-C and went on to attend ENMU where he majored in physics with minors in mathematics and secondary education. He graduated magna cum laude, earning math honors and most promising secondary teacher. Bob earned his master's degree in 1975 from New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology, Socorro, N.M. Bob continued to add to his educational background in physics, vocational education, computers, robotics and waste management.

His teaching career spanned from the Naval Reserves to public teaching in Lovington, N.M., NM Jr. College, Goddard and Roswell high schools, Carlsbad Schools, NMSU-C, Canutillo, Texas, Park College, NMSU-A, assisting at Holloman Middle School in the electricity unit and retiring from teaching college algebra at Central Texas College at age 72.

Meet Omar Soliman, a Techie conducting research in nano-technology. Omar had many reasons to attend New Mexico Tech after he graduated from Socorro High School in 2008.

One reason is that his father is a professor. He also appreciated that Tech stacks scholarships, allowing him to pocket some cash his freshman year. He also wanted to be involved in research.

"Tech has the most possibilities for undergrad research," he said. "As a high school senior, I was doing chemistry research, making nanoparticles to help fight cancer. I was shooting them with a laser beam and taking pictures with a scanning electron microscope. That's stuff most people don't do until grad school."

Soliman now works on a team building two wireless sensor networks; one will detect forest fires; the other will detect intruders.

"Ever since I was little, I wanted to study computers," he said. "My dad took me to his office and he had a behemoth computer on his desk.

I wanted to know what buttons to hit to make it do cool things."

Soliman recently became a Microsoft Student Partner. This year, he'll demonstrate Microsoft products to students, including Xbox Connect, Windows 7 Mobile and Office for Macs.

"I'm pretty excited," he said. "Thousands applied and I was one of only 50 or 60 hired."

We caught up with Omar, and was able to ask him a few questions:

Where are you from?

I was born in Albuquerque, but I have lived in Socorro for my whole life (minus one year in Saudia Arabia). However, my parents are originally from Egypt, so I have dual citizenship.

What year are you in?

I am currently a senior.

What is your major and what are your goals once you graduate?

I am majoring in computer science with a minor in business management. When I graduate, I hope to work for Microsoft or Google or

in video game design.

Why did you decide to come to New Mexico Tech?

I'm a local, so initially I would have preferred to go to a different school. I ultimately chose to go to Tech and I'm glad I did because Tech is a great value and it is noted for its excellent academic reputation.

What activities have you been involved in at NMT?

I play soccer for the Miners, the Tech soccer club. I participate in the Hi-Tech Ambassador program for the Admission Office. I currently work at the Tech Children's Center as a teacher's aide. I also work in the Computer Science and Engineering Department researching wireless sensor network development and deployment. Earlier, I worked for a year in the chemistry department researching nano-technologic dosing and delivery for use in human

body-mapping and cancer fighting. I am also a resident assistant for the Summer Mini-Course at Tech. I also met the Mythbusters team during filming at EMRTC.

What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?

What spare time? Oh . . . then I guess playing soccer and golf and gaming.

Any words of wisdom for potential Techies?

Take it seriously; this is not a fly-by-night school. But, when you graduate, a Tech diploma is a world-wide master key.

Omar has been named as the student regent at New Mexico Tech by Governor Susana Martinez.

