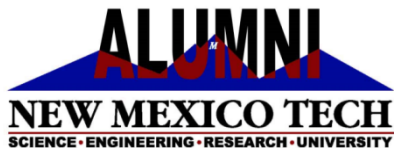


alumni association news

a letter from your alumni association



Alumni and Friends of New Mexico Tech:

The Tech 49ers homecoming celebration holds a special place in the hearts of students and alumni. This year, the celebration was a great success. The 49ers celebration

marked the culmination of an eventful year for your alumni association as well.

It was a pleasure and honor to speak with Techies from the Class of '92 and Class of '67, many of which had not been to the campus since graduation. In an unofficial New Mexico Tech Alumni Association (NMTAA) poll, the farthest-traveled alumnus returned to Tech from Austria. I spoke with other Techies during 49ers, two of which had not set foot on campus in over 40 years! Their memories of Tech were just as strong as a new graduate.

A number of activities that celebrated the school's lively past had faded over the years, becoming legend by the early 2000s. In cooperation with Tech clubs and Tech, NMTAA brought back to 49ers the Heritage Events of the Gold Panning Contest, the Single Strike Drilling Contest, the Swedish Saw Contest, and Jackleg Drilling Contest. Association funds for these friendly competitions gave cash prizes to help campus student organizations.

Your NMTAA President participated in the M Mountain Run and Paint the "M" event. I witnessed the largest participation in several years and climbed M Mountain with many students, as well as older alumni. It was a right of passage and renewal of our bonds as Techies.

While NMTAA conducts fundraising for events and student scholarships throughout the year, NMTAA hosted the Victor J. Saracini fundraiser and social mixer during 49ers weekend to raise funds for the scholarship and honor select past graduating classes with a free dinner celebration and live music. This year's event was nearly standing room only as current students mingled with alumni from years past. It was great to share stories of our Tech experiences and give to a good cause.

During this past year and leading up to the Association's Annual General Meeting (AGM) during 49ers, NMTAA has developed more engagement and outreach opportunities. Among this year's major accomplishments were the establishment of the Alumni Association's official website at www.nmtaa.org, creation of a new alumni contacts database, enhanced methods to manage active memberships online, branding of NMTAA through logos and promotional materials, and approval of a travel rewards program. The Association also completed the NMTAA Story, which is posted on the Website. It captures the essential history of NMTAA, explains its relationship with New Mexico Tech, and identifies the organization's future, as well as the drafting of NMTAA's primary mission and goals.

Your NMTAA faces a number of challenges in the year ahead. Our primary focus - to serve the interests of its alumni - is being challenged in new ways. The NMTAA's plans for starting a number of key activities continue to be on hold due to insufficient funding levels. Also, the Association must further define our partnering relationship with New Mexico Tech in support of Association interests, NMTAA's identity and branding, and our jointly shared plans for the success of our university.

As Tech alumni, you are already an important part of NMTAA. You can be a bigger part in that growing future by becoming an active member, serving on the Board of Directors, and/or volunteering your skills, time, and talents to NMTAA.

The NMTAA Website and Facebook page have photos and video from 49ers, as well as a summary of the 49ers AGM. You will also find upcoming events, department and campus news, and information on Association student scholarships and awards. Visit www.nmtaa.org to learn more. Also on Facebook, visit "New Mexico Tech Alumni Association".

Techie Proud,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "K Silsbee". The signature is written in a cursive style and is placed on a light blue rectangular background.

Kenneth Silsbee, M.S.

*President, New Mexico Tech Alumni Association
(Class '89, B.S., Technical Communication,
New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology)*