Special thanks to Student and University Relations and Edie Steinhoff for contributions to content and printing.

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Visit our website at https://nmtpaydirt.squarespace.com/config/
1. The Free Speech committee reported that they made ‘great strides’ to protect freedom of speech surrounding the upcoming election season.
2. A full supreme court, now paid positions, have been elected successfully.
3. Paydirt now has an Equipment Account. We will use this account to save up for expensive equipment, like cameras and lenses, to offer better quality news and pictures.
4. The PR committee presented a recommendation to the SGA regarding a ‘lack of communication, a lack of following established procedures, [and the presence of] executive overreach regarding the inner workings of the Executive Cabinet.’ An article more extensively covering this topic is present further in this issue.

In Fall 2019, we sent out our first survey. We got over 25 responses, and received some valuable feedback that we are striving to capitalize on this semester. Seeing as that survey was a success, below is both a link and QR code to our first survey of Spring 2020. It should take less than 5 minutes.

We will be giving away 3 more Cards Against NMT decks, a Cards Against Humanity expansion pack created by Paydirt several years ago. To enter for your chance to win, include your email at the end of the survey.

The survey will be active for about 2 weeks, and if you won, you will receive an email from paydirtntm@gmail.com.

Notice: Cards Against Humanity and by extension Cards Against NMT are satirical games and do not mean to defame any person, place, or entity in the card deck.

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/XPXV8DH
SGA Meeting Rundown: 12/3/19

1. Standard Operating Procedures will be created for each office of the Executive Branch to increase efficiency and provide guides for further SGA members.
2. The streaming of Senate meetings was discussed in order to provide more information to NMT students.
3. The next Board of Regents meeting is Friday, Feb. 7th in Santa Fe. However, our Student Regent has office hours from 1-2pm Mondays and Wednesdays in Brown 21, so you can head to her to voice your concerns or ask questions.
4. The movie Deadpool will be showing at the SAC on February 15th starting at 7pm.
5. Three Votes of No Confidence have been held by the PR, Legislative, and Finance Committees. All passed, signifying each committee's lack of confidence in the SGA President. These are statements, and do not signify policy change.
6. The SGA spent several hours discussing whether or not they should approve or disapprove the proposed NM Opportunity Scholarship. Due to the lengthiness of the meeting, many details are omitted here. The SGA decided to table the matter for two weeks, at which the Legislative Committee will present a rewritten bill regarding the topic, using student input. Look out for a poll to give your voice on the matter.
Dr. Pias knew she wanted to spend time abroad from a young age, a desire which was inspired by a variety of factors. Her family hosted numerous exchange students when she was growing up. She also enjoys learning different languages, including Spanish and German. And her interest in ethics gave her the desire to experience life in places very different from the U.S. Studying abroad and participating in a program in France only served to reinforce this desire to see more of the world.

After her return to the U.S., Dr. Pias obtained a Master’s degree in religious studies. This included studying Sanskrit, a language related to Bengali. This experience unexpectedly came in handy later, when she applied for a bioinformatics job but did not know Linux-based operating systems. She was told, “If you can do Sanskrit you can do Linux.” Her time in the Corps also made her “perceived as an emotionally resilient person,” and has given her a great appreciation of the differences and privileges of U.S. life.

Now, Dr. Pias’s research in computational chemistry still takes her all over the world. She has been to conferences in China, Spain, Germany, and Korea, and is looking forward to visiting Switzerland and Japan in the near future. Looking back, she is very appreciative of her experience in the Peace Corps and the perspective it gives her every day.

- Evelyn Byrd
Meet NMT’s New Swim Coach - Graciela Garcia

Graciela is the new head coach for the swim team that just recently started up at New Mexico Tech. She can't wait to get this team up and running. Graciela is happy to be here and has big plans for the swim team and the community.

Graciela Garcia is originally from Venezuela, but her family moved to Socorro once her husband got a job as a professor in the mathematics department here at Tech. Graciela has her PHD in art and has been swimming since she was three years old. She grew up swimming her entire life. Her father introduced her to the pool when she was little and passed his passion of swimming onto her. She has been swimming ever since. She also swam at the University of the Andes in Merida Venezuela. She was a triathlete, swim official in Texas, and a swim instructor for the Fort Worth Area Swim Team.

After her swimming days were over, she worked with a company that sold sports gear for sports teams. She was a manager and held a marketing position for 21 years. She was and still is a personal trainer for people of all ages who are interested in triathlons. Graciela says Socorro is very different from Venezuela, and she was amazed that New Mexico Tech didn’t have a swim team, but says she may teach swim lessons in the future to benefit the community. It would be great if swim lessons or a swim class was offered in the physical recreation class section that students could register for. Graciela loves helping and teaching people and wants to help New Mexico Tech as much as she can. She says with great excitement, “Step out of your comfort zone! Go be a part of a sports team! And think about joining the new swim team!”

Right now, Graciela is focused on the students and the new swim team, but says she may teach swim lessons in the future to benefit the community. It would be great if swim lessons or a swim class was offered in the physical recreation class section that students could register for. Graciela loves helping and teaching people and wants to help New Mexico Tech as much as she can. She says with great excitement, “Step out of your comfort zone! Go be a part of a sports team! And think about joining the new swim team!”

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- Katelyn Green
Club Spotlight
"To every action there is always opposed an equal reaction." - Isaac Newton

Physics Club
In Workman there is a room full of dangerous and potentially deadly demos. They belong to Physics Club, a well-established student group. Interested? So was Paydirt.

To learn more, we talked to Aaron Lovato, club president, and Stephen White, VP. They told us about the variety of activities done by their group, from relaxing meetings to volunteering to conferences. Throughout it all, their commitment to physics, fun, and the community was clear.

Outreach is important to the club, which is no surprise given their plethora of science demos. They give students at the elementary and middle schools a taste of science before they would otherwise have the chance. This is important for the community and rewarding for the students. As Aaron explained, "you see the ones where it clicks, who are super excited; I really like those." The club also works with Dave Thomas of the Psychology Department to host the annual Faraday lectures at Sarracino Middle School. In total, the club reports to volunteer about 80 hours each semester.

Physics is "a little bit of everything," said Aaron, and this is shown by the club’s wide variety of demos. They use items such as liquid nitrogen, a bed of nails, jumping rings, a bell in a vacuum, and an air cannon. There are also more "exciting" (or dangerous, depending on your point of view) demos, such as the Tesla coil, a railgun, and a recently retired Jacob’s ladder, or potentially deadly, “boundaries,” explained Aaron. "This is not just a bunch of nerd shit."

In addition to educating the younger generations, the club gives its members a lot of professional development opportunities. Each semester, they try to go to a conference; this time their destination is DC. This gives students exposure to more than Tech’s specialties of atmospheric physics and astronomy. It is also a valuable networking opportunity, and gives students practice with the essential skills of communication and public speaking.

Additionally, weekly meetings offer a chance to hang out, eat pizza, meet people, and have a reprieve from school. "These were my first friends," Stephen said, explaining that he knew no one when he moved from California. The officers are committed to helping other students, no matter who they are. All majors are welcome, not just physics, and individuals from Mechanical Engineering, Electrical Engineering, and CS tend to be present in the group. Women comprise half of the club officers, and they are shown by the club’s wide variety of demos. They use items such as a vacuum, and an air cannon. There are also more "exciting" demos, such as the Tesla coil, a railgun, and a recently retired Jacob’s ladder, or potentially dangerous, “boundaries,” explained Aaron. "This is not just a bunch of nerd shit."

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The Matulich Foundation Scholarship

Paying for school is a difficult part of the college experience for many students. It is often the case that even small amounts of money can help out financially struggling individuals. The Matulich Foundation Scholarship, a relatively new scholarship founded in 2018, can do just that.

The Matulich Foundation is "a small family foundation that offers scholarships to students in higher education." In recent years, the foundation was created as a tax exempt charity. As such, it is required, by law, to give away 5% of its funding, and it is choosing to do so by offering scholarships directly to students.

The grant is given right to students, and will not be offered to institutions. The awards are small, at most being $1000, and their requirements consist of filling out an application, filling out a survey, and writing an essay of 200 words or less. What sets the grant apart from others is that, according to their website, their "view of higher education is broad."

In essence, as long as you are pursuing something that contributes to furthering your education, you will be eligible to receive the grant. "For example, a marine biology student volunteers to serve a summer internship in an aquarium. Matulich Foundation Inc. may consider such service as part of the student's education that can be supported by a grant."

Founded by the children of immigrant parents, "the Foundation is their way of honoring their parents for the opportunity to get educated and live the American dream. After residing in a refugee camp for three years during World War II, and living in the Sinai Desert in a tent, Danilo and Josephine Matulich brought themselves and their family to the States for a better life. With a good education and future ahead of them, the children of Danilo and Josephine grew up to be successful, and are now giving back in the name of their parents."

- Skyler Matteson

The Matulich Foundation is now ready to accept applications for Spring 2020. The deadline is March 1st. Visit the link below to apply.
http://matulichfoundation.org

Christian Rode-NASA Intern

Christian Rode, a senior at New Mexico Tech majoring in Electrical Engineering with minors in both Optical Engineering and Mathematics, interned at NASA Langley Research Center in Hampton Virginia this past summer. Christian applied to NASA a couple years ago and didn't hear anything back, however; He tried again and applied to anything he could find at NASA, landing a position for the summer. Christian's mentor chose him to work with her because of his interest in optics, which was what the internship was geared towards.

Christian worked with thin film materials to change the state of matter he was working with. He then took the amorphous mediums and heated them to make them more crystalline. The substance became more refractive, allowing him to look at different energy levels. Christian learned a lot about infrared spectroscopy, but the main purpose of his project was to look at the heat rockets produce using thermal imaging as they launch. Christian looked at energy changes using lasers and worked with a laser technician from Los Alamos National Laboratory to be able to learn about optical components. During his experience he learned a lot about optics, how light bends, and light refraction.

Christian learned not only about scientific topics, but also about important life skills. He gained experience in public speaking by preparing presentations, talking in front of large groups of people, and working with other interns. One important thing he learned was how to work in a lab environment. Christian said he learned a lot from his mentor and even got to meet the research director of NASA. Christian got to meet a lot of other interns as well and said many of them were extremely intelligent.

Although he is unsure if he will intern at NASA again, he was offered a position to come back and said, "My experience at NASA was great. " When asked about why he decided to major in Electrical Engineering, he talked about how growing up his generation has been heavily influenced by technology. There were several areas that influenced his decision such as: video games, virtual reality, and other technological advancements that have opened up new opportunities within his field. "Everything having to do with technology requires electrical components and I want to be apart of the technological world we live in."

Christian had a few words of advice for the students of NMT. He said, "Apply to any and all internships you can. They are a great experience and you can learn so much from interning. You don't only get to learn about interesting scientific topics, but you also learn extremely important life skills that you will need in any work environment you may encounter. "There are so many different internships and you won't know what's out there until you look around and apply for them."

- Katelyn Green
If you are at all familiar with the United States government, you will know that a government is never run without its flaws and errors. As the Editor-in-Chief of Paydirt, I sit in on the SGA meetings and address the issues before they get any worse. “The President’s response to the recommendation was ‘to bring these issues to light and to try and address the issues before they got anymore out of hand.’” The passing of the recommendation, which cut many of the reasons for the recommendation, made the PR Committee feel like the President was trying to silence [them] and get rid of the recommendation, especially because it was regarding her actions.

I then asked about the ‘actions’ the President had taken. One example would be the Oct. 22nd, 2019 packet fiasco, in which she extruded an unconstitutional executive ruling, and it appeared she never read it. I couldn’t review it. It was submitted at the very early hours of the morning, and Justice Sheerin and Strobol, and Salazar had to spend many hours in the day working on their interpretation, in preparation for [the day’s] meeting.

They also said that the CFO began receiving emails from President Sherman after the Finance Committee submitted a recommendation attempting to resolve the club packet issue. These emails were asking ‘under what authority’ the Finance Committee had to make the recommendation, as well as demanding names and positions of all associated. It is important to note that I was shown these emails physically; i.e., they were not forged by the PR Committee.

In my interview with Vice President Dallin Soehner, he seemed to back up this claim, “there’s a level of hypocrisy. I know in [the President’s] behaviour towards Quinxy (the CFO) especially: demanding documents from him without any real reason, and then saying that Quinxy needs to file a specific form to receive her documents. She will ask of documentation, in full by 5pm, whereas, she is demanding Quinxy to go through legal hoops, it is important to note that I did not mention the PR Committee’s statements about Quinxy’s emails when interviewing VP Soehner.

Of course, this would be a biased article if I did not include President Sherman’s viewpoint. There are two sides to every coin. Although I requested an interview with President Sherman, she informed me that she had been out of town, and would not be able to participate in an interview with me. It is important to note that I notified President Sherman of this interview Monday, January 13th. I mention this to assure readers that I did intend to interview President Sherman before the release date of this issue. Below is a statement from President Sherman in place of our interview:

As of now, our year-long saga is back at work, preparing for the very successful and competitive Indoor Dodgeball Tournament. The Editor-in-Chief of Paydirt is back at work, preparing for the first spring issue. The Webmaster has created an exceptional SGA website. Check it out at: https://www.nmt.edu/sga/. They have some upcoming activities that will be a surprise for you.

These are the positions that I supervise. I set the direction and they build a vision to create something new for the student body. This is what a leader does. I encourage the political body to staff an SGA that is balanced and has never been better. The SGA provides all the first week activities including the annual Casino Night and the student government improvements that would make our Student Government run more efficiently. I am fiscally conservative. We have reduced SGA spending and as of the end of the fall semester we actually saved money. My goal is to leave your next President with a well-balanced budget.

I need your help. I need you to come to the SGA Senate Meetings and voice your opinions on what you want. The meetings are every two weeks on Tuesday evenings at 8:00pm at the Library Room. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, February 4th. The senate needs to hear from you if we are going to make any changes. I am proposing an agenda for the upcoming Green Government improvements we can complete this spring semester. I will be sending out this agenda to the senate next week. Thank you for the opportunity to continue serving as your Student Government President.

My intentions are and always will be to protect your interests as a student, as a club, as a group, and as a Univeristy. Your student body voted me in as President with 72% of the total vote. There are some senators in the SGA who really want to do the right thing for students and move away from the status quo. There are others who question everything I propose on your behalf.

The job my Executive team is doing for you is extraordinary. The Financial Dept. budget is balanced and has never been better. The Student Activities Technical Director (SATD) has opened the semester with a Marvel MCU Infinity Saga movie marathon that even I couldn’t resist. The Student Activities Director provided all the first week activities including the very successful and competitive Indoor Dodgeball Tournament. The Editor-in-Chief of Paydirt is back at work, preparing for the first spring issue. The Webmaster has created an exceptional SGA website. Check it out at: https://www.nmt.edu/sga/. They have some upcoming activities that will be a surprise for you.

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