

Paydirt Staff:

EDITOR IN CHIEF Skyler Matteson

@nmtpaydirt o



JOURNALISTS

Evelyn Byrd Katelyn Green

PHOTOGRAPHER

Samuel Baca

Jaime Mendoza

LAYOUT-**EDITORS**

SPECIAL **CONTRIBUTIONS**

> Adeolu Eletu Jason Coudriet

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Photo Contest Winners:

Front Cover:

Justine Zimmerly

Back Cover:

Jonathon Garcia

Congratulations! You will be contacted soon for your prize.



Relax and Unwind

"Correction does much, but encouragement does more." - Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

In our last issue, we included a crossword about Traditional Fighting Games. The answer key is as follows below. There's no prize for this one. But you get to feel good about yourself!

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Answers:

2 Across: MortalKombat

4 Across: Injustice

5 Across: SoulCaliber

8 Across: KillerInstinct

9 Across: StreetFighter

10 Across: GuiltyGear

1 Down: Skullgirls

3 Down: KingofFighters

6 Down: Tekken

7 Down: DeadorAlive

Sudoku

		4	2			8	
	3			1			23
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Sudoku

				5				2
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	2	8					6	
4					1		3	5
	6	1	5					
2		7	9	4				
						9		

Jones Hall Construction Update

Jones Hall, the building directly across from Macey Center, connected by a bridge to Jones Annex, and currently swathed in scaffolding, is clearly under construction. Here is a quick rundown of the situation, based on new information since we covered it last fall.



Construction History

Renovations were initially scheduled for 2017. Estimated costs were seven million dollars, which was allocated from the state, but bids from construction companies were nine million. This left a funding gap that delayed the project for another two years. Alex Garcia, Director of Capital Projects, said that "the administration worked hard to get the project funded." Now, the construction that began in January is scheduled to finish in March 2021.

Issues

Built in the 1970's, Jones has been in need of renovation for a while. Two major issues were leaks in the roof and poor climate control. Dr. Burleigh, Materials Department Chair, explained that because of the building's swamp coolers it could reach 80% relative humidity in there during the summers.

Impact

Jones was home to both the Materials Engineering

and Chemistry Departments, until Chemistry moved to the newly built Lopez Hall in the summer of 2017. With the construction, Materials has had to relocate, a process that was performed mostly over the winter 2019 holidays with the help of Facilities Management. The resulting severe decrease in space is challenging for a "very equipment intensive" discipline, explained Dr. Burleigh. Currently, the department offices are located in Speare, where the OSL used to be. Labs are scattered in five different buildings across campus. "The Materials Dept. is very thankful for the generous sharing of space from the Bureau of Geology, Chemistry, Earth & Environmental Science, Business Management," emphasized Dr. Burleigh.

Looking Forward

Major renovations will include a new roof, new windows, and new heating and cooling systems. There will also be upgraded plumbing and electrical systems. Together, these will make the building more energy efficient. A new stucco exterior will make it look "like a brand new building," said Director Garcia, and inside there will be new paint and ceilings. The Materials Department is excited to no longer need noisy compressors that go off frequently, and to have all of the electron microscopes in one location. Post-construction, Materials will be joined in the building by Chemical Engineering on the second floor.

-Evelyn Byrd



SGA Meeting Rundown: 2/8/20

- 1. There will be an open floor discussion in upstairs Fidel on Monday March 9th. President Wells will be addressing the 20/21 cost of attendance. This is the time to voice your concerns and ask your questions about next year's pricing.
- 2. The Dean of Students brought up that he is handing out meal tickets to faculty members who wish to go on lunches with students to discuss school-related material and career information. Students can also pick up these meal tickets for the same purpose.
- 3. There are new programs in both the Mineral and Chemical Engineering departments. Mineral Engineering now has a graduate program, and there is now both a PhD and Master's program in Chemical Engineering.
- 4. Most SGA departments are working on their Standard Operating Procedures in order to make the transition into next year's administration smoother and increase efficiency.





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Sports and Club Spotlight

"Believe you can and you're halfway there." - Theodore Roosevelt

NMT Sports Highlights

Men's Rugby

Match Report on the men's first game of the season:
The Men's team played a friendly against the Albuquerque
Aardvarks here at Tech on February 1st. This game was the
men's first game of the season and gave them a chance to blow
the cobwebs off after a 2-3 month break. At the beginning of the
game the Miners started off poorly, with the Aardvarks scoring
in the opening minutes. The Miners came back and scored
two trys just before halftime. The score was 35-35. Way to go
Miners!

Women's Rugby

Match report on the women's first game of the season:
The women's team played their first game against NMSU on
Saturday February 15th. The Miners started off strong scoring
2 trys before the first half ended. The women continued to
dominate letting NMSU score only 1 try in the second half and
NMT scoring 2 more trys in the second half. The final score was
26-7 NMT winning the game! Go Miners!

Sports Recruiting

Gerioid Dunbar is going to Snow Canyon High School in St. George Utah to recruit for rugby. Geroid said this is probably the first time this has been done at Tech and he's super excited to go and recruit athletes. 8 different high school teams will be playing in Utah.

Mens Soccer

The men's soccer team had an away game on February 8th against UNM. They started off strong with a 2-0 lead in the first half. However, Tech fell to the Lobos 3-2. Geroid said the soccer team has improved tremendously from the last few seasons and is looking forward to seeing what they do the rest of the season.

New Mexico Tech Day at the State Capital:

Geroid Dunbar and Damian. Banks (President of E-gaming) went to the State Capital on February 3rd to talk about sports at New Mexico Tech. There was an E-gaming table set up with a computer and the games that the E-gaming club plays. There was also a rugby table set up with the teams jerseys, a match playing on a computer, and an NMT Miners Rugby sign. This was a great event where Tech informed other people why sports are important and what direction Tech plans to go in in the future. It was a key event in creating awareness of NMT sports.













Photos By: Samuel Baca

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Bisti Badlands



The Bisti Badlands is a unique and spectacular area in the Four Corners region of New Mexico. South of Farmington and north of Chaco Canyon, it is a wilderness area managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). As such, camping and after the sound they make when stepped hiking are free and welcomed, as long as a few rules are observed. Motorized vehicles, mountain bikes, fires, and collecting fossils or petrified wood are prohibited. There are no water sources, so visitors must bring enough with them.

Visitors should also be aware of the history of the land and be careful not to venture onto adjacent tribal lands. The word Bisti originates from the Navajo word Bistahí, meaning "between the shale hills" or "among the adobe formations." The area is also called the De-Na-Zin wilderness, which originates from the the Navajo word Déél Náázíní, meaning "cranes." The two geological formations that make up the Badlands are the Kirtland Shale to the east and the Fruitland Formation to the west. Much of the material that

makes up the area is volcanic ash, which erodes quickly and does not hold water, and thus does not support much plant life. Also visible are pieces of what appear to be pottery or brick, called "clinkers" upon. These are pieces of clay that were transformed during the burning of coal beds in an ancient fire.

Fossils are also common in the Badlands. One of the most famous is the Bisti Beast, a Tyrannosaurus dinosaur discovered in 1997. This fossil is currently located in the New Mexico Museum of Natural History in Albuquerque, where a robotic model also now graces the museum's lobby. The skull of the Bisti Beast was scanned using X-Ray and neutron CT at Los Alamos National Laboratory. Riley Myers, a Tech student majoring in Computer Science and Electrical Engineering, helped to analyze that data to characterize the skull's internal structures.

For more information on visiting and

the history and science of this region, visit https://www.blm.gov/visit/bistide-na-zin-wilderness and http://www. nmnaturalhistory.org/exhibits/permanentexhibits/bisti-beast.

-Evelyn Byrd

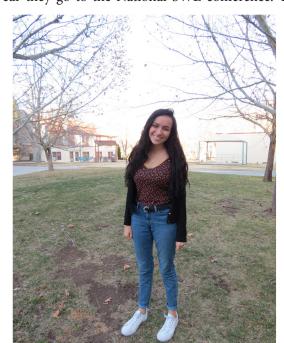


Club Spotlight-Society of Women and Engineers



The Society of Women and Engineers club is a club that supports and promotes women in STEM and helps build an awareness of women in the STEM fields. Co-President of the Society of Women and Engineers Club, gave an overview of her club and why it is important. Grace is an Environmental Engineering major and senior here at Tech. She has been the Co-President of the club since last December and was the President last semester. Grace talked about how this club is a lot of fun and how great their group of women are.

This club does a lot of volunteering and fundraising. They just completed their biggest fundraiser of the year which was the Rose Sale that happened in early February. They will use some of this money to put on outreach activities for young girls in Socorro to help make young girls aware and interested in the STEM fields. Every year they go to the National SWE conference. This next





fall it will be in New Orleans. It is the world's largest conference for women in engineering and technology. It gives women a platform of support to help them pursue their interests in STEM, or continue growing as professional women in engineering and technology.

At this national conference, thousands of female engineers will make connections with each other, discuss struggles and solutions, and find new ways to support one another for the overall advancement of women in engineering and STEM. Grace said, "It's always tons of fun and there's always a lot of different women there from different backgrounds." The weekend of February 21st the club volunteered at Super Stem Saturday with ARFL at the convention center. On pi day, these women will be at Explora in Albuquerque doing pi-related activities with little kids at the science convention center.

This club has about 12 active members right now, and wants to continue to grow. Grace said, "We are always looking for new members to join, it doesn't matter what major or what grade you're in, anyone is welcome! We meet every Wednesday in Jones Annex 108 at 6:00pm."

SWE has helped Grace find her voice as a woman and feminist in engineering. She's gotten to meet a lot of women in different majors who she may not have crossed paths with had it not been for SWE. Grace said, "Because misogyny is so ingrained in NMT and engineering, our SWE chapter tries to provide our members a network of women to support them throughout their academic and professional careers." Grace is excited to see what the rest of this semester brings and can't wait for all of the events that are coming up. She hopes to see new faces at their meetings on Wednesdays.

- Katelyn Green

Student Spotlight

"Strive not to be a success, but rather to be of value." - Albert Einstein

Veronica Espinoza, Our Student Regent



Veronica Espinoza has been the Tech Student Regent for about a year now, and will serve until next spring. Interested in who she is and what she is doing for the Tech community, Paydirt sat down with her to chat. The following interview has been edited for length a nd clarity.

(Paydirt) Where are you from?

Veronica: I grew up in Sunland Park, New Mexico, right next to El Paso, Texas. Right on the border.

How did you end up at Tech?

V: I'm actually a transfer student. I went to Colorado School of Mines for about two years and decided that I didn't like it. It was for multiple reasons, but one of the things was the culture they have. Especially for me, coming from a huge Hispanic community where everyone spoke Spanish, then all of a sudden being dropped down to a place where there's that lack of what I'm used to. At that point, culture was a huge part of my identity, so I decided to come to Tech.

Tell us about your experience at Tech.

V: From the times I visited, it felt like home. And it's such a small community, you get to interact with everyone. You have a conversation about what's going on are welcome to can have friends who are in very different majors than you come. If they have any concerns I can bring them to the are. You walk around and you recognize faces. It's not as intimidating as being at a large school.

[I'm] here for ChemE, even though I was a transfer student they took me under their wings and definitely accepted me, and I knew everyone in my class. It was great.

It's kind of hard to be with friends who don't get what you're going through. It's great to come here and all of you are struggling together at two in the morning trying to finish homework. It creates a bond.

Where are you with your academics? V: I am getting my B.S. in Chemical Engineering. I was looking at going for a Master's in Mechanical Engineering, but the lab I work in right now with Dr. Hargather, they convinced me to go for my Ph.D. here. I'm super excited for all of the projects we have going on right now.

What does the Board of Regents do?

V: We do administration and other entities report to us about what's going on with Tech. We also get to vote on serious issues such as spending and tuition, and on officially approving things like the two new graduate programs in Chemical Engineering and Mineral Engineering.

What about you specifically as Student Regent? V: I'm basically the voice of the students on the Board of Regents. It's funny, the administration always tell me, "you're the boss," but for me the students are my boss. I report to the SGA, and it is important to me to not only report but also to hear what other reports are so I know what's going on. I also go to GSA (Graduate Student Association) meetings, because that's another voice that I have to pay attention to. I represent the whole student body. And I recently started going to the faculty senate as well.

I also offer office hours where any students who want to board.

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Go See Do

"Nothing is impossible, the word itself says 'I'm possible'!" -Audrey Hepburn

RecycleMania - Tech is Stepping Up and Standing Out

New Mexico Tech is currently in the midst of RecycleMania, a recycling competition between colleges and universities across the U.S. and beyond. Curious how we are doing, how it works, and who is supporting this work, Paydirt reached out to Christine Burrill, the student who started it all.

Christine is a third year Ph.D. student in Earth and Environmental Science (EES). She has been a very strong proponent of recycling throughout her time at Tech, and played a major part in arranging the size. Recycling amounts are based on weight or volume-to-weight Sustainability & Renewable Energy Symposium in Spring 2019. When asked why she feels so strongly about this issue, she was ready with a few statistics:

- -Between 2006 and 2017, 17 million barrels of oil were used to make plastic bottles in the U.S.
- -Between 2008 and 2017 over 1,500 workers died during the oil extraction process.
- -92% of all plastic is not recycled.

In the end, Christine said "recycling is something that's so easy that we can do to make a difference." She also emphasized that anyone can make a difference, and that every single plastic bottle can help. She said, "I am by no means perfect, but I do try to do what I can."

Christine discovered RecycleMania (recyclemania.org) one day when wandering down a "recycling rabbit hole." Since its founding in 2001, over a thousand different institutes of higher learning from across the U.S., Canada, Mexico, Puerto Rico, and Guam have participated in the 10-week competition. There are different categories based on schools' goals and abilities to track recycling and trash, allowing institutions of Finally, Recycling is also good for Tech's reputation and recruitment all sizes to join in.

The program seemed perfect for Tech, and Christine was amazed that she had not heard of it before. She immediately reached out to Steve

Hicks, the Recycling Director. Even though timing was short, they managed to arrange everything so that Tech could compete- and now,

Tech is competing in the "per capita" category, an entry-level class that is appropriate for our current recycling program. It is based on recycling only, and does not include food waste. As of the first week, we are 67 / 131 for per capita overall, and 17 / 27 for schools of similar conversions. Students who live off-campus are more than welcome to collect recycling at home and bring it to campus.

The goal of RecycleMania is to bring attention to Tech's recycling program through education and events, but there has not always been a program. In fact, the current program was founded in the fall of 2018, soon after the formation of the Tech Recycling Steering Committee. Prior to this, individual departments informally attempted to arrange internal recycling programs.

Clearly, this issue is significant and has a lot of room for improvement. Now, the Committee is interested in further input from students, either as suggestions or becoming part of the Committee. The only student on the Committee currently is Christine. Those interested can contact Steve Hicks, Recycling Director, at steven.hicks@nmt.edu.

> Another great way to help is to arrange for recycling at events, such as those held by various clubs. To do so, contact Gillie Silva, Recycling Specialist, at gilberta.silva@nmt.edu. It is also important to recycle correctly, with clean materials of the correct types. (See the infographic for recycling details.)

efforts. Participating in RecycleMania, and just becoming a greener school in general, are important to "get our name out there," Christine said. We are currently the only school in New Mexico that is competing; SFCC and CNM are both participating in the

noncompetitive "benchmark" category.

WHAT CAN BE RECYCLED?



The end of March will bring our final RecycleMania ranking, but the need to continue recycling will not end. If the competition is successful, we will see Tech maintain awareness of this issue and lead the way as a green campus for the world to see.

-Evelyn Byrd

- Plastics 2 - 7

- Ceramics

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NMTrends



time from independent sources. These to surpass NM was Oklahoma at 4th - Skyler Matteson submissions usually range in both place with 29.26%. author and content, but recently Paydirt received quite a few articles regarding New Mexico may be suffering when

Quality, average health insurance the period between 2009 and 2018. premiums between 2013 and 2018 were compared, for each state. It was Mississippi claimed rank 1, with a found that New Mexico sits at 9th place large 31% increase in marriage and for the largest growth in annual health 34% decrease in divorce over the insurance premiums, at a 26.17% same ten years. Illinois sat at rank 25 increase between the five years.

state was Arkansas at 31.70%, and

Paydirt, in addition to its articles, 41, with 16.58%. Texas was ranked 18, receives submissions from time-to- at 22.34%. The only state out of the five

trends in New Mexico and at NMT. I it comes to insurance premiums, decided to compile this information but according to another study, it is into one article showcasing some of the surpassing nearly every other state in interesting data analysts have collected. highest marriage and lowest divorce rates. It ranks 2nd best, with a 28% In a study analyzing data from the increase in its marriage rate and nearly Agency for Healthcare Research and 16% decrease in its divorce rate, over

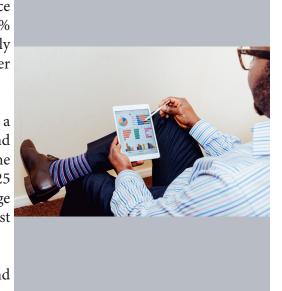
with a 3.51% decrease in marriage rate. However, it also had the highest In comparison, the largest growing divorce rate decrease of 40%.

the least growing was Wyoming at Switching over to NMT, it was found 7.59%. Of NM's five bordering states, that, out of 1253 four-year colleges, Colorado was ranked 49, right above New Mexico Tech had a 66.51% chance Wyoming, at 10.39%. Utah sat at rank in applicants from 2008/09 to 2018/19, 45, with 15.37%, and Arizona at rank ranking our school as number one in

NM, and rank 101 in the country.

At rank 1 was Southern New Hampshire University with almost a 600% increase in the ten year period. However, it is worth noting that SNHU has a wealth of online courses and uses an open enrollment policy requiring a high school diploma or GED. Many of the higher ranking colleges also had similar practices and courses.

Special thanks to QuoteWizard and LendEDU for this information. These articles can be found on their websites. However, they may not be released yet, and as such, will be available later in



You were just up in Santa Fe. What did you do while you were up there?

V: I attended a Hispana roundtable legislator dinner. People in the Hispanic community were awarded awards for their contributions to the state. It was also a good chance for recruitment. I was also up there for the alumni reception, and there was another gala in Albuquerque for the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. So I got to do all these great things, interact with all these kinds of people.

How do you try to represent the whole, diverse student body?

V:I'm always open for suggestions. For now, I've been going to different events, sneaking into different clubs and seeing their meetings. I'm trying to be more open to the student body, showing them "I'm here!" I would like to make myself much more available than just being here stuck at Brown Hall.

What has been your favorite part of being a Regent? V: What I love, what being a Regent has given me, is that I have become much closer to the student body. I'm much more proactive. I actually go to the SGA meetings and to all these events. I've been much more involved with what legislations is being passed and how it affects Tech. I'm not and chat. just here, a student taking classes; it definitely gives me a different perspective.

How can other students get involved?

V: If you have questions, ask them. One way or another you're going to get an answer. But Tech is hard, and having to not only do homework and clubs and extracurricular activities but also having to be proactive about what's going on on campus can be very difficult. So making it as easy as possible for students to get their information is important to me.

What else are you working on for your next year as Regent? V: I'm excited to work with SGA President Sherman. She was really proactive about the Opportunity Scholarship. She was up in Santa Fe to hear the House Education Committee discuss it, and she told them about some of the experiences students are having here at Tech. She is also very involved in mental health.

Let's talk more about that (mental health).

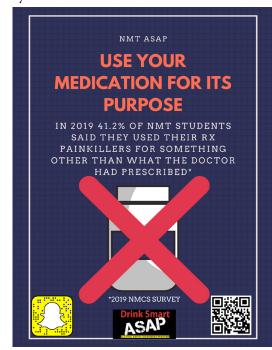
V: We need more resources for it. At Colorado School of Mines they were very proactive with their mental health program. I really appreciated it because I was one who benefitted from that. I feel that Tech and Socorro have to work together to bring those resources here. They are very important for Tech students, there are a lot of us and only two counsellors, and only short term counselling. Having some sort of more sustainable source for that would be amazing for students.

Any other issues you're tackling?

V: Recruitment, bringing up enrollment. That's a huge issue right now that Tech is going through. I'm doing my part, going back to my high school, because I feel like for Tech the greatest tool we have for recruitment is our own students. It's more relatable, and also I know how important it is for parents to be involved. If admissions ever needs help, if they ever need someone who speaks Spanish, I'd love to go.

Veronica holds office for one more year, until Spring 2021. She has office hours Monday and Wednesday from 1 to 2 pm in Brown Hall 21, and encourages students to come by

-Evelyn Byrd



Science and Research

"There is nothing impossible to him who will try." - Alexander the Great

Snow Day and Delays



On February 11th New Mexico Tech got about 3-4 inches of snow and school was cancelled at 2:00pm due to inclimate weather. Students were ecstatic to have half the day off to play in the snow and destress from their studies. The athletic field was filled with kids throwing snowballs and making snow angels, One large group of students excitedly built a 10 foot tall snowman. The video of the students building the snowman was even on the news!

The men and women's rugby teams had a fun day playing tackle rugby in the snow as well. The next morning, there was a 2 hour delay due to icy conditions. As many of our readers may know, it's unusual for Socorro to get a lot of snow, if any, and the last known closure of a school day was back in 2015.

On the topic of weather, I talked with Jose Martinez Carlos, a PhD candidate for physics, who studies atmospheric physics and also has his masters degree in lightning research and Undergraduate Degree in meteorology. Jose has been here at Tech for 6.5 years and started here in August of 2013.

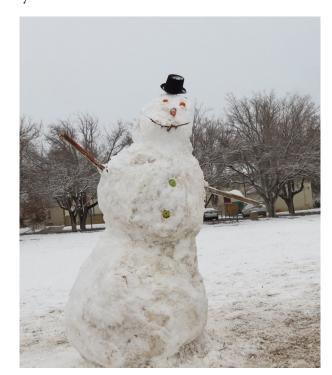
Jose had some information about the Great Socorro Hail Storm that happened in October of 2004. Jose was not actually present when it occurred, but was curious about this hailstorm because hail storms here in the United States are bigger than other places Jose has seen in Puerto Rico.

What people told Jose about the hailstorm was that it happened very suddenly. So suddenly, it was barely seen on the radar or satellites.

The hail was grape fruit size and would bounce off the roof smashing windows and damaged a lot of the buildings and cars in Socorro. This multi cell hail storm system that happened grew to 10-15 kilometers in height where it gets very cold and that's why the storm was so violent. The higher it grew the more ice there was. This crazy and sudden event shocked the town of Socorro and left a lot of destruction in its path.

Jose talked about the storm and said, "If the storm system is not very big, and is not a super cell, but wanted to grow into a super cell, it falls as hail. Why some hail grows into big structures is hard to explain, but rain will reach a freezing level and graupel can form at higher levels." Jose talked about how the hail storm that hit Socorro had a very sudden and violent updraft with the help of M mountain creating a mountain system where temperatures were cold enough for the hail to form. This very sudden and violent storm lasted only about 10 minutes. Jose ended his interview saying, "It was a mysterious thing that happened here in 2004 and whos to say when it could happen again."

-Katelyn Green



The Vulnerability of a Network Using Betweenness Centrality

Michael Gonzales, a senior at New Mexico Tech who is majoring in mathematics, did an amazing research project at Los Alamos National Laboratory last summer in the subject areas of computer science and mathematics. The title of his epic research project was: Quantifying the Vulnerability of a network Using Betweenness Centrality. This was Michael's third summer working at LANL in the Theoretical Division of Applied Mathematics and Plasma Physics.

His research consisted of looking at how to quantify the vulnerability of a network using different algorithms to analyze a specific network. To give some insight on what betweenness centrality is, Michael went ahead and explained it. He said, "It is a measure of the influence of a vertex over the flow of information between every pair of vertices under the assumption that information primarily flows over the shortest paths between them." He looked at an open source data set of computer-to-computer interactions to see if he could find a path that went through every computer. The goal of this research was to see how fast an adversary could go through an entire network.

Math has always been Michael's favorite subject and when he was asked why he decided to major in math he said, "Math has always been a subject that has come easy to me. It was something I felt like if you didn't know how to do a certain step in a problem, you could always go back and figure out where you messed up. There is a method to solving all math



problems and as long as you know that method you can solve similar problems and I have always loved that about math." Michael talked about how math is different from other majors in the sense that it's not a lot of to eventually become a math teacher memorization and the main focus of math is knowing when and where to apply certain formulas.

Michael learned a lot of new things while working at LANL. He presented his research poster at the student symposium and said, "I learned that it's really easy on large networks to actually get from one place to another since they are all highly connected." Michael talked about how he learned to construct a poster of his research and condense his two month long project and high level math into a one is better for you." Michael ended page poster. He learned how to present his interview with a great quote and and communicate with other people and met a lot of new people as well.

When Michael was asked what his plans are after graduation he said, "I am going to go to graduate school here at Tech and am going to do the 5 year masters program in operations

research and statistics." Michael wants to get a job in industry in the future possibly doing data analysis. However, his dream job would be sports statistics. After this, Michael wants because it is such a hard subject for most students.

Michael had some good advice for tech students that they should take away from this article. He said, "Look into research opportunities as soon as you can, whether it's here on campus or elsewhere. It's a great way to help you figure out what you want to do with your career and help narrow down what you really want to do. It's a really great way to see if you like doing research or whether or not application said, "Pursue research jobs, research positions, and take advantage of all the opportunities given to you."

- Katelyn Green