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**EDITOR IN CHIEF** Skyler Matteson

**JOURNALISTS** Emma Nourse  
M. Dixon

**PHOTOGRAPHER** Hector Grijalva

**LAYOUT-EDITORS** Jaime Mendoza

**SPECIAL CONTRIBUTIONS**

Tony Arant  
Adrian Salustri  
Hector Reyes

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# PAYDIRT

Mental Health  
p. 5/6

New Year, New Me  
February 2nd, 2022



# In This Issue:

## General

SGA Rundown ..... 1

## Campus Life

Alpha Sigma Kappa, Women in Technical Studies. .... 3/4

Mental Health on College Campuses ..... 5/6

NMT IEEE Club goes to CES, Finds Smell-O-Scope ..... 7

## Professor Spotlights

Dr. Phaiah and Dr. Greene..... 8/9/10

## Relax and Unwind

Spider-Man: No Way Home Review..... 11/12

Alpha Sigma Kappa Flyer ..... 13

Wordsearch. .... 14

Skyler Matteson

Emma Nourse  
Skyler Matteson  
Adrian Salustri

M. Dixon

Tony Arant



## Word Search

### A New Semester

M	I	R	S	C	O	R	E	F	U	N	D	S	S
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PENCILS  
SYLLABUS  
INTRODUCTIONS  
BEGINNING  
LOST  
REFUNDS  
PENS  
DUES  
NOTEBOOKS  
NEW SEMESTER  
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WELCOME BACK  
CANVAS  
ALARM

Play this puzzle online at : <https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/3212408/>

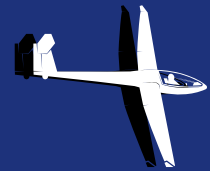
UP, UP, AND

*AWAY*

AΣK

*Women in Technical Studies*

SPRING 2022 RUSH



FEB. 7TH INFO NIGHT:

TRIPP ROOM, 7:00PM



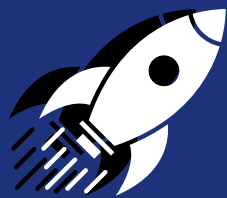
FEB. 8TH PAPER PLANE COMPETITION:

FIDEL ATRIUM, 6:30PM



FEB. 9TH DRONES W/ 

DRONE LAB, 6:30PM



FEB. 10TH SPACE DANCE W/ SWING:

SAC, 8:00PM



FEB. 11TH FUN ON THE FIELD W/ HOT AIR

BALLOON PHOTO OP: FIELD, 4:30PM

**GOT QUESTIONS?**

asketa1204@gmail.com @ask\_eta on Instagram

## SGA Meeting Rundown: 01/20/22 and 01/25/22

- NOTE: Due to other printing obligations like career fair, this issue's release was pushed to 2/2, two days past a normal Monday release. We apologize for the delay!
- Plenty of the new N-95 and KN-95 masks are available across campus. We have been informed that these are much more effective against Omicron than regular masks, so feel free to pick them up.
- Admin is looking for students to be on several committees. They are specifically looking for students from a marginalized background. Contact Michael Voegerl if you are interested at michael.voegerl@nmt.edu.
- The SGA is planning to keep campus open this semester, within reason.
- 2 new committees have been formed in the SGA due to a welcomed surplus of Senators, the Mental Health committee and Online Community committee. These committees will be focusing on work regarding their namesakes.
- Several student concerns were brought up regarding hybrid classes and distance options for quarantining students. Although the SGA will be bringing these up to the COVID Task Force, for now, please be sure to contact your Advisor and Department Head regarding professors' actions or lack thereof.
- Dr. David Greene, as of 3 weeks ago, has taken over as the new Vice President of Student Life and as Chief Diversity Officer. Read on to find out more!
- Student Regent hours will be Wednesday 6:30-7:30 in the Library Study Room 211. The first Board of Regents will be February 11th at noon in Sante Fe.
- Look for a student interest survey to see what kinds of events you'd like to see on campus.
- Spring Fling planning is up in the air due to COVID. It is currently being pushed back to April to give some extra time to see how things work out.



## Alpha Sigma Kappa, Women in Technical Studies

Written By: Emma Nourse



On December 4th, 2010, a new chapter began at New Mexico Tech. This new chapter was the Eta chapter of Alpha Sigma Kappa, Women in Technical Studies: a social sorority for technical women. The sorority and others like it blend elements of both an academic and a social sorority, where the social and philanthropic values merge with a focus on academic and professional performance. This is especially true for the sisters of Alpha Sigma Kappa, both on a national level and here at Tech.

Since its establishment just over 12 years ago, the sorority has experienced its fair share of ups and downs just like any other club here on campus. However, in all that time, it has always served as a place for the women of tech to have a place of their own and to feel supported by other women on campus.

There have been periods of time within the sorority where the number of women has dwindled down to the bare bones, leaving only 2 or 3 women to run the entire chapter. Due to some old sisters' actions, there have been years where the reputation of the women and the sorority have been put in jeopardy. In recent years, the sisters of the organization have worked diligently to overturn any lingering negative opinions through their philanthropic pursuits. Additional measures have included sticking to the dry sorority rules, as well as the outright

ban on hazing. They have also put countless hours and effort into growing the sorority through social events and through Rush, which will be explained later on in further detail.

Despite everything, the young women of the sorority have persisted and pushed the chapter to move forward and improve. In addition to the drive to constantly do better, there were countless other reasons people had for joining the sorority. Take it from the current President herself, Raechelle Sandoval: "I joined ASK because I wanted a place to be supported by and support other women in a school full of men." She also went on to say that she believes that Alpha Sigma Kappa stands for "...supporting women in STEM, no matter the background or major."

President Raechelle is a current senior who took over the position of President in August. Since then, she has had the difficult task of transitioning the chapter back to in person from Zoom events. She describes her job as one of keeping operations running smoothly and providing her fellow sisters with the support they need to succeed. President Raechelle is also one of 5 Executive Committee members. The Executive Committee or 'EC' is made up of the highest chair positions in the sorority on a chapter level (i.e. at each individual university), and they are the women who ensure the most crucial operations are taken



The film's comedy is a mix between Marvel-movie™ humor and Gen Z's meme humor. The Marvel-movie™ jokes were hit or miss, and this deflated some more meaningful and serious scenes. It seems to be an illness within Marvel Studios; almost every time a serious scene occurs, a corny, unnecessary joke is jammed in right after it. The humor that did work was the meme jokes. The lines of dialogue and entire scenes that matched popular memes were cleverly inserted and well timed, unlike the other Marvel-movie™ jokes.

The biggest gripe I had with Tom Holland's Spider-Man in previous films was the idyllic life of Peter Parker. Two major themes (if not the entire point) of the hero Spider-Man are responsibility and self-sacrifice. A good example of this is the comic storyline The Death of Gwen Stacy. In the story arc, Spider-Man's longtime girlfriend Gwen Stacy is killed by the Green Goblin. The story shows that Peter Parker must give up things like romantic relationships in order to be the hero. In Holland's previous two outings, Peter Parker was not very responsible; help from other superheroes was just around the corner. No Way Home is a bit of a maturation for Peter Parker. By the closing credits, Holland finally feels like the Web-Head millions have come to know and love.

No Way Home is certainly the best entry in Tom Holland's run as titular hero. I would place this as the third best Spider-Man film. It is better than most that came before it, but it still isn't quite as great as the first two Tobey Maguire Spider-Man films.

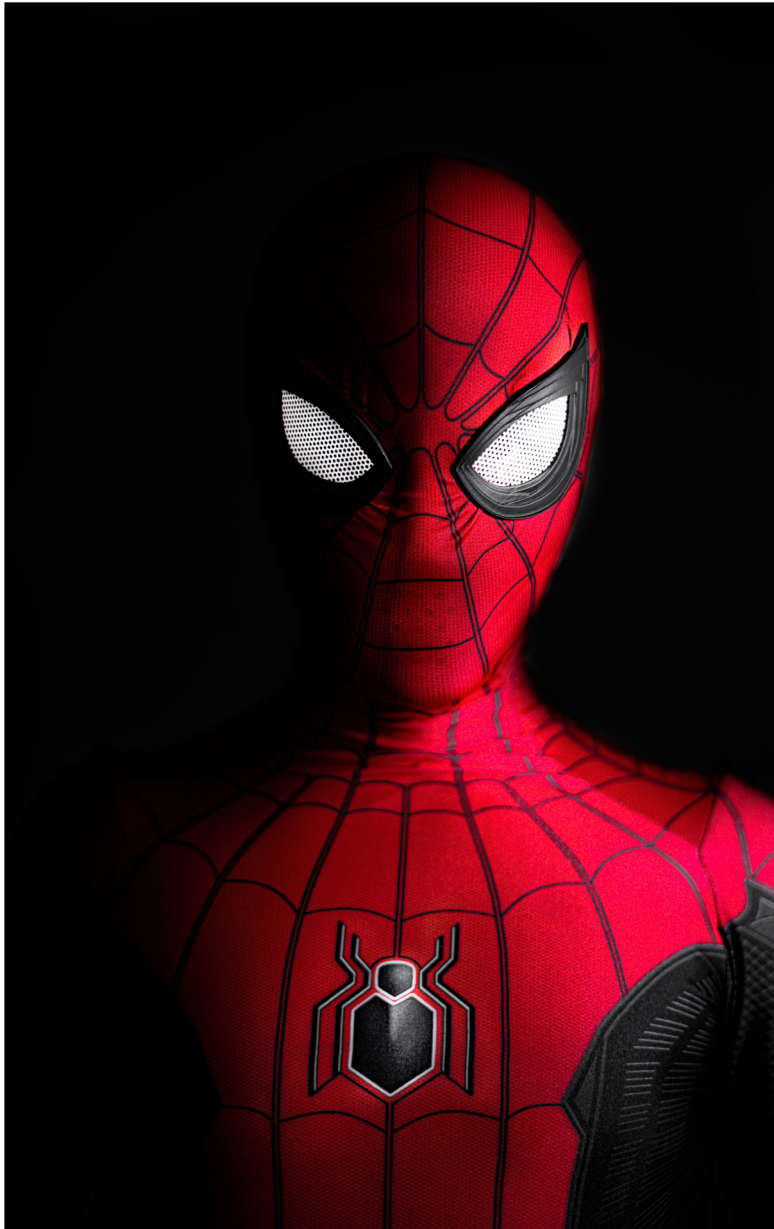
Spider-Man: No Way Home may not be high art, but it is still fun popcorn entertainment. If you are a fan of any iteration of the hero, you will certainly have a blast at the theaters.

## Spider-Man: No Way Home Review

Written By: Tony Arant

With Spider-Man: No Way Home swinging into theaters on December 17th, Marvel Studios has gone full-comic book; adapting both the best and worst the medium has to offer.

No Way Home (directed by Jon Watts) follows Peter Parker (aka Spider-Man played by Tom Holland) as he deals with the fallout of his secret identity being leaked to the public by the previous film's villain Mysterio. The reveal of Spider-Man leaves Peter's life in shambles, so he enlists the help of Doctor Strange (played by Benedict Cumberbatch) to re-establish his secret identity. Naturally, the spell Doctor



Strange casts to do this doesn't go quite as planned. The magic accidentally releases villains from other universes into their own, setting up the plot for the remainder of the film.

As stated before, the film feels like Marvel's most 'comic book' production. Everything in a comic book is larger than life, and not really subtle. In No Way Home, all characters' attributes are heavily caricatured. In the beginning, the immaturity and adolescence of Peter Parker and his friends is lathered on thick. Originally, I found this annoying; but on second thought, it makes sense. In order to fully accentuate the changes Peter Parker undergoes, his starting immaturity needed to be well recognized by the audience. Comic books are not known for their subtlety, and this film certainly follows that trend.

Sony/Marvel's biggest gamble in No Way Home comes within the realm of villains. The film's antagonists are all ones that have appeared in previous Spider-Man franchises. The big gamble is: will normal audiences recognize recurring characters? Hard core Spider-Man fans will of course shout and scream when Alfred Molina's Doc Ock or William Dafoe's Green Goblin appear on screen, but will the average Joe? It is common wisdom for a movie franchise, if it is a reboot of a past one, to avoid any connection to past films. Both Micheal Keaton and Christian Bale have played Batman, but their respective interpretations of the character have nothing to do with each other. With the introduction of the "Multiverse", No Way Home smashes that preconception; and introduces the comic-book crossover to the general audience.

The previous Spider-Man franchises attempted to introduce way too many villains in a single movie. The films Spider-Man 3 and The Amazing Spider-Man 2 were muddled, had inconsistent tones, and felt bloated. Although they were financially successful, the two films were critically panned; and ended Tobey Maguire's and Andrew Garfield's tenures as Spider-Man. It is just not possible to give more than a handful of characters meaningful moments and satisfying story arcs. By forgoing character introductions, and streamlining the film to focus on Tom Holland, Sony/Marvel broke the trend of convoluted Spider-Man sequels.

care of. These positions are year long and carry great honor and responsibility.

VP of Operations Emily Rich said that she joined ASK because she "...wanted to make connections with other students who identify as women." She also elaborates on the gender gap here at tech, stating she believed when she became a student the gender gap was somewhere around 5 to 1, male to female. She went on to say that she has "...made so many connections and friendships that [she] wouldn't have otherwise. [She] also [loves] being surrounded by smart, driven, and beautiful women." One of the most important statements she had though was what she believes the sorority as a whole stands for, and it was a sentiment echoed by others as well; she says that the sorority "stands for supporting women in male dominated fields - regardless of their affiliation with our organization." She went a little further though and elaborated on that: "I think all of us love watching women succeed. What that means to me is making sure other women never feel alone when there is little to no representation."

Another member of the EC, VP of Finances Jonnie Woody said that one of the things she loves most about the sorority is the push to continue to be excellent academically. "We support each other, tutor one another, and try to teach each other about our respective fields." VP Jonnie also said one of the reasons she joined the chapter was because she "...realized that [she] needed a support system, and girls in STEM understood exactly all the problems [she] had as an indigenous matriarch at Tech."

The final two EC positions are held by me, Emma Nourse, VP of Recruitment and Savannah Bradley, VP of Communications. Savannah Bradley has served in just about every chair there is outside of the EC before taking up the mantle of VP of Communications for her final year at New Mexico Tech. VP Savannah said that "growing up, [she] never had a lot of female friends," and that she had no intention of joining the sorority until she attended a few events for Rush her freshman year and changed her mind, wanting to be a part of "something so special." She said that now, she "appreciates the power behind women supporting each other." She also added that she has "truly loved [her] time getting to know [the] girls and being a part of an organization that supports women in a male dominated field."

So what is the sorority planning next? What events can you look

forward to attending? In just a few weeks, the chapter is going to be running Rush, a weeklong recruitment event with several social events. All events are open to the public, and everyone is encouraged to come out and enjoy a few hours of fun. Because ASK is the only Greek Life on campus at the moment, Rush for them is significantly more laid back and relaxed than at other, larger universities. They have the luxury of getting to know each potential new member and woman on a more personal level due to the nature of a small school as well.

Last fall semester was one of the most successful recruitment seasons of the past few years as well, and a few of the newest sisters of ASK wanted to share what their Rush experience was like. Haileigh Grubbs and Suzanne Eisenburg both agree that the first few days of Rush were a bit hectic and overwhelming, though they had fun getting to know everyone. Haileigh said that her favorite Rush night was the dance night, the traditional joint event between the sorority and the Ballroom Dance club during Rush week. Haileigh also went on to talk about how after Rush she had a lot of fun getting to know people and getting her Big Sister.

Getting a Big Sister is another tradition that is a commonality between sororities. New members are paired up with an active sister who will guide them through the process of becoming an active sister as well as act as a sort of mentor.

Another newly activated sister, Nina Parafina, shared her story. She said that she was very nervous last semester after transferring from another college and she was "...unsure how [she] was going to find [her] place at Tech." She said that "the first event cemented that [she] was going to be okay." She went on to say later that she is unsure if she would still be at Tech if she hadn't "...crossed the bridge from being a potential new member to a candidate." She finished out by saying she "found a little home."

Tanya Navrotsky, a Townie and a Techie, had this to say about her Rush Experience: "My experience was like I was on Cloud 9 during Rush Week because I was around people I didn't know. Growing up here I never really met anyone new, so Rush was exciting." She did mention that it was difficult at first to manage her time, but that she is still happy that she is a sister and that she is excited to be part of, in her words, "An amazing group of people."

# Mental Health on College Campuses

Written By: Skyler Matteson



'Mental health' as a concept is in a weird limbo. Although important to many, it can be seen as trivial to others. Some may bring up the topic, whereas others shun it away. Looking to find out more about mental health overall, I talked to Dr. Yulia Mikhailova, an Associate Professor of History in the CLASS department and the chair of the newly formed Ad Hoc Mental Health Committee. To explain what made her interested in this subject, she shared with me her and her daughter's story.

Dr. Mikhailova's field is centered in Medieval History. She originally moved to Socorro as her husband received a position in the Math department, but after a time she also received a job teaching History. "I've taught in several places, and Tech is my favorite by far. Students are very smart and intellectually curious."

In regards to her experience with mental health issues, Dr. Mikhailova described that she "heard from students that it [was] hard to get an appointment at the Counseling Center, and about other problems, but [she] did not think much about it before [her] daughter had a negative experience as a student of the University of Michigan." I should mention that Dr. Mikhailova shares the following with her daughter's permission. For the sake of brevity, I have summarized her account.

Dr. Mikhailova's daughter "Jane" (not her real name) experienced many stressful events at the University of Michigan, including being at the center of mass shooting alert. Due to these stresses, Jane developed "anxiety, depression, and she went to her school's counseling center three times." However, she was told that her

problems were not urgent. She was put on a waiting list, and did not receive any help.

Jane eventually "had a real mental crisis, a mental breakdown. She was not violent, aggressive, suicidal, a threat to herself or anyone, but the crisis was there." Someone, noticing this crisis, called a helpline, hoping Jane would receive help. But as a result of this call, while Jane was taking a nap, "police opened her dorm room on Thanksgiving Day, dragged her out of her bed, took her to the emergency room. The psychiatrist spent 10 minutes with her at a rate of 100 dollars per minute, as we know from the bill."

From there, Jane was sent to a private for-profit hospital far away from campus. Although Dr. Mikhailova was informed that Jane would stay at the hospital for 1-2 days, she nonetheless decided to fly out to see her. On arrival, Jane was in an okay condition, slightly confused but willing to stay: "She understood she had mental issues and was willing to receive treatment." But in a couple days, her condition worsened:

"[Jane] deteriorated mentally and physically. She was in a terrible state. She kept telling me that something terrible was going on. She looked like she was being tortured. Nobody answered my questions, telling me that the doctor 'never talks to family members.' I called the university, asking them to help her transfer somewhere else or get somebody from the university hospital to see her. After the doctor learned about this call, he summoned me to his office, not to talk about Jane's condition or treatment, but to threaten me. He said, 'I don't allow any transfers; I don't allow



The different skills he discussed go beyond the normal working environment and into general day-to-day skills. Dr. Phaiah expressed the importance of opportunity for students to develop leadership, communication, and teamworking skills in a variety of environments. This can be in the form of clubs, student government, and other organizations. "We want to give you options. As an employer, I'd rather hire someone with a wider skill set that can do more if needed than someone who may be better at the specific job but is limited in their ability."

Dr. Phaiah said that he practiced this belief himself; during the pandemic he took on many positions on top of his own and was able to keep working towards improving them. He 'wears a lot of hats' and works at each of the responsibilities and jobs that he takes on.

Additionally Dr. Phaiah had a lot to say on his role as liaison for the student body. When asked how he chooses what issues and improvements to pursue, he responded "I often go to clubs and ask them what they feel can be improved and done. It's a return on investment thing, I'd love to work towards and improve something for a single student, but the time, money and effort is easier to justify

for a bigger group of students. The less students that want something to change, the more I'd like them to help me do it, but if there's a large group that comes together I can look at the administration and show that it is something we should put our full weight behind." As a liaison Dr. Phaiah wants to work with student-led action; the student body coming together and working as a group to bring about the change that they want.

Dr. Phaiah also appreciates students coming to him or the staff in his office with their questions and concerns. His office is working to create a sheet that students can fill out in order to bring attention to problems on campus; it will be a way for the student to anonymously submit problems without having to come to the office and can help bring attention to sensitive issues. This is still a work in progress but after the testing and trial phase, it will be available to the student body so that anyone can submit questions or concerns.

If you would like a more in-depth look at Dr. Phaiah and his work, you can reach him at his email, peter.phaiah@nmt.edu.

## Customer Service at College Level

Written By: M. Dixon

as the director of a LGBT resource center,” in addition he expanded on the other projects and departments he was able to establish at the universities he worked at.

When Dr. Greene left his position at his first institution, the University of Missouri, it was ranked in the top hundred schools nationally for LGBT students. At his second institution, Philadelphia community college, he was able to receive a nearly \$250,000 donation to start and develop a LGBT resource center, in addition to a myriad of other works. And at the third institution Dr. Greene worked for he used one hundred million dollars (\$1,000,000) to update and improve the functionality and accessibility of various on-campus facilities.

Dr. Greene hopes to do the same level of work for Tech, and is already taking the steps to do so. He stated that as part of his first action here at Tech, “[We] will begin to examine the spaces that are part of the student life and auxiliary portfolio... Hopefully in the next two or three years [we will] really be able to see the changes we want to make.” ‘We’ in this context refers to the Student Life Department as a whole.

Dr. Greene stated “My job as the Chief Diversity officer is to define what Diversity means here on campus.” He broke down Diversity into three separate categories: Diversity, how we are different and the same, Equity, everyone has access at the level they need, and Inclusion, everyone has voices that are here and part of the conversation.

Additionally, Dr. Greene stated that he felt one of his goals as the Chief Diversity Officer was to create an environment where people feel comfortable asking questions: “It’s my job to be uncomfortable and to challenge people to be uncomfortable.” He wants to encourage an environment of open communication where everyone can feel able to ask and educate their peers on the issues that affect them.

Needless to say, it will be exciting to see in what direction Dr. Greene goes with his position and what Student Life will do in the time to come.

No one’s college experience is perfect, we all run into bumps along the way, but here to help us in our educational experiences is Dr. Peter Phaiah. Just as every sports team needs a trainer to help and support players, every institution of higher learning needs someone who supports and helps the student body. As the Dean of Students and the Title IX coordinator, he is highly skilled at helping students. With numerous years of experience and a doctorate in Educational Administration, Dr. Phaiah positions himself as the perfect person to help bring the school community together.

Dr. Phaiah was not always a school administrator. His background in Sports Medicine goes to show that he is interested in both helping students and making sure they have what they need to succeed. As a sports trainer, he worked closely with student athletes, and now as Dean of Students he does the same but with Tech’s educational and support facilities.

When asked to describe his position Dr. Phaiah explained, “I work in customer service; I make sure the students here get what they pay for. We run the support services on campus.” If there’s a problem for the students on campus it’s his business to help fix it. “We take surveys, and we appreciate the feedback you give. It helps us see what needs improving.” He explained that he works to provide a “holistic environment” to the lives of students. He made it clear that he believes that with this environment, students are able to succeed at their highest level.

His department is responsible for all manners of operations intended to support students by acting as a liaison between the administration of the school and the student body. In the short time I spent in his office, he received numerous phone calls asking various questions big and small, and he took the time to answer each problem on the other end of the line, showing the pride Dr. Phaiah takes in his work. “You as a student tell us what you want to do, and we work with you to help develop those skills that you need. We have four years to prepare you; to give you what you need to be successful and then send you off.”

anyone to see my patients.’ He said he had complete power over his patients, and if I complained about him, he would retaliate. He allowed me to see Jane for now, but he could isolate her from all contact with the outside world. He said that he petitioned the court for Jane’s involuntary commitment, meaning that she would have to stay in his hospital on court orders. That’s not even all of it. It was really scary. He yelled at me, insulted me. His plan was, apparently, to keep her hospitalized to maximize his payments and the hospital profits. University offices told me they cannot do anything about it. [There] was no help from anybody”

Eventually, Dr. Mikhailova told the hospital that representatives of the university would be at the hearing. This was a lie. The threat intimidated the hospital, and when they pressed why they wanted to attend, Dr. Mikhailova said, “Because they care about their student,” which was “the most outrageous lie in [her] life.”

Her bluff was not called. “On the same day, the court hearing was canceled, on the next day, [Jane] was much better, and the day after, she was back to normal.” The doctor tried to get her to stay, claiming that blood work needed to be done, “but she was absolutely healthy and without a court hearing he could not keep her longer. [Jane] was discharged from the hospital 70 miles from [her] college town, wearing her pajamas, no shoes, no coat, no credit card, no phone, [and] it was December in Michigan. Imagine that a parent cannot fly across the country on a day’s notice; what are you supposed to do?” After some time, Dr. Mikhailova and Jane found a clinical psychologist who helped her recover from her original condition and “mainly from the trauma caused by hospitalization.” Jane is completely healthy now.

Dr. Mikhailova originally thought her daughter’s story was unusual and a product of corruption and conflict of interest, but as she did more research, it turned out this type of event was not uncommon: “It appears that issues with these services are widespread and systematic.” However, this problem is being investigated: “Currently, three national organizations – Project LETS, Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law, and Mental Health America – are conducting a survey of students across the US, hoping to gather comprehensive data and to use it in order to advocate for a change.” The QR code is posted in this article if you are interested.

Post-interview, Dr. Mikhailova provided me some insight into mental health and mental health at NMT: “A group of concerned faculty have recently formed the Ad Hoc Mental Health Committee to collect information about the state of mental health among Tech students and resources available to them. I am this committee’s chair, and I will appreciate any information and any suggestions from students.” (Information follows)

“One common problem faced by students with mental health issues was well formulated by an activist from California. We talked by Zoom, and she said: ‘If you are not suicidal, you don’t get any help. If you say you are suicidal, they call police on you and hospitalize you by force.’ This happened to her. In fact, statistics shows that forced hospitalization greatly increases the risk of suicide. Of course, individual outcomes vary greatly, depending on the hospital and on the doctor – some people find that forced hospitalization was good for them. We want to find out how it is for our students – how many of them have been hospitalized through Tech, whether forcibly or voluntarily, and what their outcomes have been. We want to be sure that they are sent to good places, are treated by good doctors, and have adequate support after they are discharged.”

“Above all, we want to prevent crises that lead to hospitalizations. One of the best preventive measures is in-depth therapy, which helps people deal with stressors and problems before they build up and create a crisis. This kind of therapy is expensive, but we will see what we can do. Fortunately, there is also a more cost-effective preventive approach known as ‘intentional peer support.’ It shows great results, and it has recently received an official approval from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. The essence of it is that peers – in this case, other students – are trained on how to create a safe and supporting environment and to interact with somebody in distress before this distress escalates to a full-blown mental crisis. Training is now available online, and the costs are in the vicinity of a few thousand dollars. Bringing such training to Tech would both help students and reduce pressure on our overworked counselors.”

For more information, or to share your stories and suggestions, contact Dr. Mikhailova at [Yulia.Mikhailova@nmt.edu](mailto:Yulia.Mikhailova@nmt.edu).



## NMT IEEE Goes to CES, Finds Smell-O-Scope

Written By: Adrian Salustri



CES, or the Consumer Electronics Show, is one of the largest emerging technology expos in the world. Every year, companies and researchers convene in Las Vegas, NV to showcase their latest gadgets, discoveries, concepts, software and more. Anything related to consumer tech is welcome at CES, so there's naturally a huge diversity of ideas for attendees to engage with. This year, some of those attendees were NMT undergrads. Over the break, members of our IEEE student chapter packed into a school van and drove to Vegas, using their college student status to gain free entry.

On their return, I interviewed IEEE president Troy Sims about the experience. He said "CES 2022 was a fantastic experience that I recommend anyone interested in the tech industry attend. We saw technologies from the latest electric vehicles to robots that can make coffee and deliver it to you." The club showed us some of the many brochures they were given and we picked out some of the most interesting, which are displayed in the following photo gallery.

However, it wasn't just cool tech. The primary attraction for students was networking. Club members met "the CEOs and CTOs of startup companies, engineers of all types, investors, marketers, recruiters, journalists and more". The show was not open to the public, so all attendees were somehow involved in the industry (and most were hiring). Students made important contacts and scheduled interviews. "It was interesting to be mixed in with all the professionals", Troy elaborated, "student attendees were relatively rare, so I was often confused for a practicing engineer". Due to COVID, the show was more subdued than previous years, as many large organizations such

as Google and Facebook did not attend. "The silver lining was that it was easier to connect with people," Troy added, "one student ended up chatting with a startup CTO for almost an hour."

Troy emphasized that anyone would find value at CES, not just engineering majors. It's easy to focus on all the flashy robots and cars, but there were deeper, more subtle innovations that would appeal to even the most non-commercial scientist. For example, Dr. Viktor Bezugly, a research scientist at the Max Planck Institute, displayed his method of arbitrary gas detection and classification using carbon nanotubes (the so-called Smell Inspector). Roughly, when an airborne molecule flies past a carbon nanotube it affects its electrical resistance. If you construct a grid of nano-tubes and record their resistances over time, you'll see a unique statistical signature for each gas - which can be classified by a neural-network in real time.

Despite the pandemic complications, the trip was a smashing success, and Troy hopes the club continues to send students after he graduates in May. "Overall, it definitely boosted motivation for those interested in consumer technology, and gave ideas for students who still aren't sure what they're doing... Tech should continue to take advantage of CES, especially since it's so close."

All students interested in the IEEE Club, whether they are electrical engineers or not, can contact [ieee@npe.nmt.edu](mailto:ieee@npe.nmt.edu) to be put on the mailing list. The club wishes to thank the SGA, ABQ IEEE Section, and the EE department for sponsoring the trip, and hopes to see some new faces at their bi-weekly meetings.

## Professor Spotlights

### A New Way Forward for Student Life

Written By: M. Dixon

Continued on Page 9



Right before the world was shaken by the COVID-19 epidemic, the previous Vice President of Student Life left their position. They could not have known what was about to happen, but at the time everything was looking up, and Peter Phaiah stepped in to fill the position during the coming interim. An article on Dr. Phaiah is also in this issue, if you are interested in his story.

After nearly two years of pandemics and complications in the school's operations, Tech has brought on a new Vice President of Student Life, Dr. David Greene. Dr. Greene is a veteran of working with students, helping to improve the non-scholastic parts of campus life to help students be the best they can be. Dr. Greene said "The work that makes me happiest is seeing students be who they are."

His experience and track record in working at colleges also speak to this. He has spent 18 years working at the college level, and in that time he has done work to improve the state at each university he has been employed: "My goal is always to leave an institution better than I found it, I think we take jobs sometimes not realizing that if the opportunity comes and we make the decisions to leave we should always leave it better than we found it."

When asked why he chose to come to Tech, Dr. Greene stated "this gives me the opportunity to grow." He elaborated that he doesn't like feeling stagnated in his position and he feels the coworkers and community at Tech give him that chance to improve. One of his main points in the interview was the statement "I believe in the idea that community makes things better," which does not go unsubstantiated in his plans for what to do at his position.

When asked about the direction he wanted to take the department he responded frankly, stating: "I've only been here for 3 weeks, it's a bit early." Dr. Greene plans on talking with students from a wide variety of backgrounds and experiences to find what course of action would be best for him to pursue. He wants to show that he didn't come in with a preconceived notion of what is best for the students, but that he wants to find out what's best and work towards that.

Dr. Greene was also hired to fulfill the role of Chief Diversity Officer in the Student Life department. Dr. Greenes' background is mainly in the field of implementing and being an advocate for diversity in institutions of higher education: "My first position working at a university was