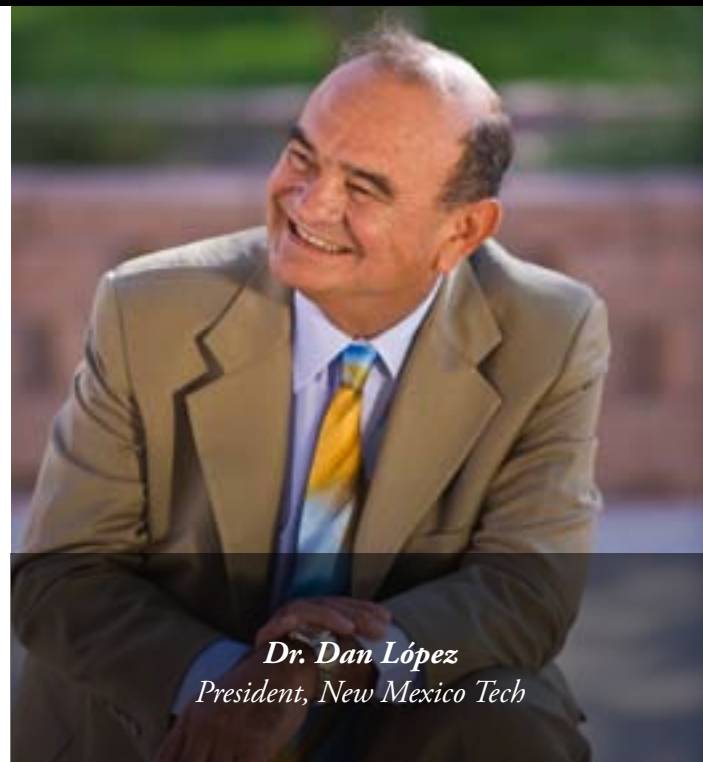


Kenneth Ford: “My teaching odyssey has extended from graduate students to 7th-graders. At every level, I have loved the physics and the teaching and the students. Real affection for students, I suggest, goes a long way toward ensuring their success, and your own. When you really want them to share some of your excitement, they will. Along the way, I have acquired a few convictions. One is that we need to work harder at overcoming our still too-common priesthood syndrome. Another is that teaching physics to 9th-graders makes great, good sense.”

A word from the President . . .



Mesaland's President Dr. Phillip O. Barry and New Mexico Tech President Dr. Daniel H. López signed a memorandum of understanding for New Mexico Tech faculty and students to participate in wind energy research.



*Dr. Dan López
President, New Mexico Tech*

Dear Alumni and Students,

Greetings from Socorro and your alma mater!

We are nearing the close of another successful school year at New Mexico Tech – another year that has come with many challenges and many successes. The economic situation in the state (not to mention the rest of the country and the world) created challenges for all universities, but I believe the light at the end of the tunnel is getting brighter.

We helped pass a new funding formula for higher education, which is weighted toward science, technology, engineering and math education. In the long-run, this change should help Tech. In addition, state tax revenues are starting to climb again. We hope the trend continues and that the economic burden begins to alleviate.

Our campus population is growing with each year. Publicity from MythBusters has certainly helped. However, I believe that the biggest reason our campus

population has grown is due to our effective recruiting efforts that focus on the great opportunities that await new students at New Mexico Tech.

We will be building a new residence hall that should be ready for occupancy in the fall of 2013. This will increase our on-campus living capacity by 150 beds and alleviate much of the demand for dorm space.

As you read this edition of Gold Pan, I hope the articles rekindle a connection to your alma mater, and I hope you will consider returning to Socorro for 49ers and staying involved with campus life.

Cordially Yours,

Dr. Daniel H. López
President
New Mexico Tech



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inside GOLD PAN

ALUMNI MAGAZINE

Greetings!



Colleen Guengerich

Letter from the Director
Office for Advancement
April, 2012

Dear Techies,

Welcome to another issue of Gold Pan, the alumni newsletter of New Mexico Tech.

We are continuing our series of profiles of university presidents. Last issue featured Dr. Stirling Colgate. This issue, we feature his successor, Dr. Ken Ford. Our next issue will include a profile on Dr. Laurence Lattman.

The Office of Advancement has expanded our annual schedule of alumni receptions. We have truly enjoyed meeting Tech graduates who have scattered around the nation and embarked on interesting and exciting careers. We encourage you to attend receptions in your area. We continue to look for new locations to host receptions and we are happy to take your suggestions for new regions to visit.

Our members' directory on our website, www.nmt.edu/advancement is growing with 646 profiles for you to search. You can easily register, log on, update your contact information and reconnect with college friends. We continue to search for many of our international alumni. Please feel free to email us contact information for our "lost" alumni.

This year's 49ers celebration is shaping up to be the best ever. We encourage all Techies to gather in Socorro in October to revisit your old stomping grounds and see how the campus and the town have changed. The 2011 event included the best "M" Mountain run ever, with more than 200 students – current and former – helping paint the iconic letter that overlooks Socorro, as we celebrated 100 years of the "M". I think everyone agrees that the "M" has never looked better. We have plenty of current students willing to help carry lime up the mountain, so when you return, you can simply enjoy a nice hike up the mountain and lunch in one of the most scenic places around.

For those who rarely return to Socorro, we encourage you to consider the 49ers celebration in 2014. That year marks the 125th anniversary of New Mexico Tech and we're already gearing up for a special extravaganza to mark this milestone.

Gratefully,

Colleen Guengerich

New Mexico Tech is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution.

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*Eric Peterson
Inside back cover*

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Paul E. Shoemaker

President, NMTAA
Physics, 1971

At a recent meeting of the New Mexico Tech Board of Regents, Dr. López presented his 2011 President's Report. The meeting took place in northern New Mexico, and John Dowdle, a member of the New Mexico Tech Alumni Association Board of Directors, happened to be present. He alerted me to the really excellent way in which that report paints a picture of New Mexico Tech's successes and challenges.

Letters to the Editor:

Questions? Compliments?

Concerns? Corrections? Make yourself heard! email Lavern:

lrobinson@admin.nmt.edu.

This is your magazine; we want to hear from YOU!

From the report we learn that in 2011, just over 2,000 students (graduate and undergraduate combined) were enrolled at New Mexico Tech,



Paul E. Shoemaker

the largest enrollment in Tech history. Those students come from coast to coast and the District of Columbia. Forty-four foreign countries are also represented in that enrollment. Mechanical Engineering continues to dominate undergraduate majors. ME is a strong second (behind Science Teaching) as the discipline of those pursuing master's degrees. My own undergraduate major field, Physics, leads the doctoral program enrollment.

Tech's revenue in 2011 amounted to approximately \$160M, of which 57 percent derived from research and various other restricted sources. Only one institution led Tech (out of the 10 best

western U.S. colleges – excluding California) in terms of the starting and mid-career median salaries paid to graduates of those schools. The one institution that outpaced Tech was a mining school in Colorado somewhere, and it was only slightly ahead of Tech.

Career successes were showcased for selected alumni who earned degrees at Tech in Chemistry, Math, Biology, Physics, and Petroleum and Mechanical Engineering. Awards garnered by nine faculty members were discussed. Tech's continued high rankings in national surveys and publications were highlighted.

And last, but by no means least, there is one really fascinating page of data presented that catalogs all the degrees – bachelor's, master's, and Ph.D.'s – awarded by Tech from 1889 through 2011. With the degrees granted in May, 2011, Tech's cumulative total came to 10,119.

If your experience at Tech was anything like mine back

in those halcyon days from 1967 to 1971, it's hard to believe that a university as compact and as intimate in setting has made it possible for us graduates to be members of a club numbering more than 10,000. What a remarkable institution Tech is.

Charlie Birnie, a 1957 Petroleum Engineering graduate of New Mexico Tech, donated his school jacket to the Office for Advancement. The jacket is in excellent condition. Mr. Birnie has been a generous donor to NMT for many years and we are grateful and honored to have him as an alumnus! Thank you, Mr. Birnie!

If you have NMT memorabilia you would like to donate, please contact the Advancement Office at 575.835.5616, or by e-mail at tortiz@admin.nmt.edu.

*What was Tech like when you were here? If any of you have a story to tell, send it to Colleen Guengerich (cguengerich@admin.nmt.edu), Director of Advancement, and you may see your story published in **Memories of a Miner!***

Mechanical Engineering: A New Mexico Tech Success Story

By Thomas Guengerich

In eleven short years, the Mechanical Engineering Department has exploded to become the largest on campus, comprising more than 25 percent of the undergraduate population.

"I think our growth has been due to a variety of reasons," said Dr. Warren Ostergren, chair of the department. "But it's been largely due to the hands-on activities of many labs and courses. Students learn by experimentation at the same time they're learning the theories in the courses."



Dr. Warren Ostergren

Ostergren, who is known to students as "Dr. O," said the upswing in mechanical engineering



Felicia Romero and Alex Plonczak

students is not just a local phenomenon, but a national trend as well. Students are realizing that a mechanical engineering degree affords a broad range of above-average salary career options.

Founded in 2000 as Tech phased out the Engineering Mechanics program, the department awarded one bachelor's in 2001 and hit double figures in 2005 with 15 degrees. The next year, 2006, the department awarded 30 bachelor's. In May 2011, 47 students earned their bachelor's in mechanical engineering, which was 23 percent of all bachelor's awarded for the year.

New students continue to lean heavily towards the discipline. In the fall 2011 semester, 314 students were declared as majoring in mechanical engineering, including 84 freshmen (or 26 percent of all first-year students).

"When students come to visit, they are engaged when they see our labs and our design projects," Ostergren said.

Mechanical engineers at New Mexico Tech have a rigorous curriculum that includes much lab work. The linchpin of the department's regimen is the Design Clinic courses.

"I have found that we are unique at New Mexico Tech," Ostergren said. "I've not found any other school in the country that has combined juniors and seniors in design clinics. It builds continuity into learning the design process. The juniors learn how to do projects from the seniors. Then, they become seniors and bring in recruits that they train."

The two-year design clinic requirement also permits the department to embark on multi-year projects. Some projects have been ongoing for as many as five years. "We're not limited at all in terms of how big a project

we can take on,” Ostergren said. “Students are able to take on projects of broader scope and that are more challenging.”

Not only do the mechanical engineering students get two years of design work, many of the projects have industry sponsors, giving students regular interaction with professionals.

“Sponsors contribute both funding and mentoring,” Ostergren said. “We want to find industrial sponsors so students have a chance to work on real-world problems. They learn what’s important in industry. They learn about priorities and what to expect on the job.”

In recent years, industrial sponsors have included Honeywell, General Electric, Aberdeen Proving Ground, the National Museum of Nuclear Science, Holloman Air Force Base, Up Aerospace, Sacred Power Corp., Los Alamos National Laboratory and Sandia National Laboratories, just to name a few. Students design and build

airplanes, vehicles, security doors, high-speed sleds, satellites, rockets, gas guns, bomb chambers, heliostats, and many other inventions. Students employ math, modeling, analysis, testing and engineering – all combined to solve problems.



Carla Dozal and Nick Falcone

“They teach us how to think, not what to think,” said Leroy Garley, a 2006 graduate who now serves on the department’s Advisory Board.

The experience and mentoring are the most important thing sponsors bring to the table, but the funding is helpful as well. Ostergren said companies or national labs provide

the money necessary to build prototypes, which can be quite expensive.

“Our students have better intuitive knowledge when approaching design projects,” Ostergren said. “Our graduates can begin their careers immediately, as opposed to learning

design on the job, which is the norm. That’s our best calling card – when they hire one of our graduates, they come back for more.”

Tami Dixon earned a bachelor’s in mechanical engineering in 2010, with a minor in aerospace engineering. She now works at the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard near Seattle. She said the

biggest advantage she got from the design clinic regimen is communication skills.

“We [new hires] were all pretty overwhelmed with all the knowledge and information thrown at us,” she said. “But I think I communicated better and handled the stress and deadlines better than my peers.”

A native of Farmington, Dixon said she and her design team gave eight presentations during her final year at Tech. Those experiences helped prepare her for the rigors of an engineering career. At Puget Sound, she works on mechanical systems of aircraft carriers, including elevators, hydraulics, catapults, and arresting gear.

“I knew how to talk to superiors, ask for help, ask questions and have open communication with people who have the knowledge base that I want,” she said. “My education at Tech challenged me enough to help me be successful in my career.”

The department added Dr. Julie Ford, associate professor of technical communication, to the roster this year.



Dr. Julie Ford

“In engineering, communication is critically important,” Ostergren said. “From my industrial experience, I know that many high-level managers say that the vast majority of problems involve communication and the minority of problems are technical. We have to learn to communicate to propose ideas and to convince others that we’re headed in the right direction. We’ve always tried to emphasize it in design, but to have an expert like Dr. Ford on the team has been outstanding.”

Roushan Ghanbari, a 2009 graduate now working at Sandia National Laboratories, said that two years of design clinic present crucial experiences for Tech students because of the regular interaction with sponsors.

“You meet with industry sponsors and you have to have something to show them,” she said. “You give them a briefing and you have to be prepared to discuss technical difficulties, budget issues, time setback and other issues. You have to be able to explain all facets of the project and be able to communicate well.”

Garley said he appreciates the education he received at New Mexico Tech because the department’s professors have a wide range of specialties.

“The professors have a good breadth of knowledge,” Garley said. “That helps narrow down what you want to do and helps prepare you to work in the field. I got everything I needed at Tech. I was perfectly prepared when I started my career.”

Garley served as president of the campus chapter of the American Society

of Mechanical Engineers while at Tech. After earning his degree, he started working at Eclipse Aviation, which was also the sponsor of his Senior Design Clinic project.

“They hired me after I graduated,” Garley said. “I know a lot of students who got jobs with their project sponsors. Some went to Honeywell. GE hired others. A bunch of different companies hired students. You build rapport based on the relationship with Tech.”

Garley returned to school to get a master’s



L: Keith Miller, associate professor in Mechanical Engineering, R: Osmar Munoz



Will Reiser and Jordan Klepper

degree, which he expects to complete in May. Ghanbari and Garley spoke to the ASME student chapter in early March, offering advice on starting a career, interviewing skills and networking.

“We’re paying it back and helping build the next generation of engineers,” Garley said. “What we do in industry reflects on New Mexico Tech. And what current students do at Tech reflects on us.”

Ghanbari earned a master’s at Texas A&M in 2011 and joined the Advisory Board for the

department after returning to New Mexico. She and Garley said they enjoy contributing to the department because they feel a sense of loyalty – to Tech, to the department and to Dr. Ostergren.

“Dr. O is the reason that our department has been so successful,” Ghanbari said. “He is the reason we got accredited and he’s the reason we have so many sponsors. He’s just phenomenal.”

Garley said that he will continue to support the Mechanical Engineering Department because he appreciates Ostergren’s

dedication to education and to engineering.

“We see how hard he works,” Garley said. “We’re more than willing to help out. By helping him, we’re helping everyone in the department. When I tell people I went to New Mexico Tech, they immediately know I got a solid education. That makes me feel that the work I did at Tech is recognized and rewarded.”

Ghanbari said the small, tight-knit community at Tech fosters a sense of loyalty.

“Mechanical Engineering is the biggest department,

but Tech is a small school,” Ghanbari said. “I went to Texas A&M and there were 53,000 students. Here at Tech, every one of my professors knew my name and who I am – as a person and as a student. They take the time to find out what your career goals are and what you’re interested in and they’re willing to help you. The level of interest is much higher in a small community.”

Interested in learning more about the Mechanical Engineering Department at Tech? Go to: <http://infobost.nmt.edu/~mecheng/homepage>.



Matthew O’Keefe and Dan Meisner

the iconic capitol bar: from territorial saloon to tech hangout — miners’ memories live on

By Robert Eveleth and Paul Harden

Editor’s Note: Robert Eveleth (Class of 1969, Geology) and Paul Harden, historians by avocation, wrote an extensive history of saloons in Socorro, of which the Capitol Bar remains as the granddaddy of them all. The authors have agreed to allow Gold Pan to reprint the section of their article that focuses exclusively on the iconic landmark. We hope the two-part series will jog the memories of Miners and Techies alike!

Part I

The Early Days

At one time, there seemed to be a saloon in Socorro on nearly every corner, such as the Palace, Grand Central and Biavaschi. The former Biavaschi Saloon is today’s Capitol Bar. It is the only surviving Territorial bar in Socorro

Italian immigrant Giovanni Biavaschi built

a substantial two-story brick building on the southeast corner of the Plaza in 1896. This was the Biavaschi Saloon, built to “last the ages.” Biavaschi lost his saloon, in 1909, through a series of business misfortunes. It was reopened as The Club Bar by Judge Amos Green; and, for a time, leased to former mayor Jose E. Torres as the Torres and Gallegos Bar.

Prohibition brought an end to Socorro’s saloons. Judge Green’s bar survived Prohibition by being converted into Green’s Pool Hall.

The Emillio “Dynasty”
Fred Emillio migrated from Lincoln County and arrived in Socorro with his family in early 1923, to team up with Damian Padilla to operate a pool hall. The Emillio family had long been established in Lincoln County. A portrait of Fred’s grandfather once hung in the Lincoln County courthouse. According to the family, it now hangs in the Palace of the Governors in Santa Fe.

Fred’s son, Willie, recalled riding into town “perched atop the family belongings in the back of his father’s Model T Ford pickup.”

Tragically, Padilla’s and Emillio’s pool hall was a short-lived venture due to the bane of many such establishments – fire – which broke out early one Monday morning in March 1923.

The fire took out the entire block “extending south from the Plaza to the Sedillo store in the middle of the block facing Court Street on the east.” Only the superhuman efforts of the local hose company succeeded in saving Sedillo’s two-story building. The *Socorro Chieftain* described the ruined block as “one of the old landmarks, being among the first buildings erected in Socorro.”



Courtesy Earl Jr. and Joanna DeBrine

A photo of the Biavaschi Saloon – the Capitol Bar as it appeared a century ago. The man in the center is thought to be Judge Amos Green, owner of the bar from 1909–1925. Date of the photo is probably about 1909.

About this same time, Amos Green was seeking another manager for his business and Padilla and Emillio, suddenly available due to the extenuating circumstances, moved across the Plaza. The furniture and fixtures in their pool hall were insured for \$1,500 and this no doubt eased the pain of the transition.



Judge Green died on Jan. 13, 1925. Fred Emillio remained at Green's Pool Hall throughout Prohibition and after. It seems that the Green family either continued to sublet the business as before, or Padilla and Emillio may have purchased their interest after Green's death.

Fred would not permit his sons to work behind the bar prior to their coming of age. He did, however, allow them to do custodial work, clean glasses, and more, but no bar work.

The boys "helped out around the place, listening with youthful imagination to the many great tales emanating from the Green Front's historical past as (they) swept and polished."

Willie Emillio recalled several anecdotes from those Prohibition days of polishing and sweeping. Yes, Fred did keep a well-secluded stock of Kentucky's finest on hand to soothe the parched throats of his more trusted clientele.

"Dad always sought out the very finest of whiskeys and refused to handle the cheap stuff ... he bought old stocks of the highest quality 'bottled-in-bond' bourbon whenever he could," he recounted. Willie remembered his dad sterilizing bottles and affixing labels.

One label, we'll call it the "green," was for the lower-priced product and the other, the "black" label, for the "premium." But the same high-quality spirit went into each! The working class fellows went for the more affordable



green, while the upper echelon went for the black, "and none of them ever knew the difference."

This little switch-up was a reflection of Fred Emillio's compassion for his fellow man — he firmly believed that all should be treated equally and offered a quality product.

Magdalena was often the source of the contraband hooch, as several wily old operators had the foresight to lay in copious quantities of J.W. Dant Bonded whiskey and other prime elixirs of the distiller's art before Prohibition took effect.

On March 22, 1933, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed into law

the Cullen-Harrison Act, which amended the Volstead Act to once again allow for the manufacture and sale of alcoholic beverages. The official repeal of Prohibition came with the ratification of the 21st Amendment on Dec. 5, 1933.

Fred Emillio kept a close eye on the situation and when repeal was imminent, he applied for and received Socorro's first liquor license. He immediately changed the name to Green Front Saloon and is said to have painted the brick facade green — traces of which are still visible today — in memory of the late Judge Green. A new sign was painted on the northeast corner of the building that

stated "Wines-Liquors-Next Door" and an arrow pointing to the front door of the saloon. The sign is still there today.

The Capitol Bar

During 1938, Fred Emillio became seriously ill; and, for a time, it was thought he might not recover. In 1939, sons Willie and Frankie Emillio pooled their resources, bought out their father's partner (possibly still Damian Padilla) and went into the bar business for themselves.

"We were young," recalled Willie Emillio, "and we'd become friends with most of the students at the New Mexico School of Mines. With the campus

located right here in town, it didn't take long for the place to become a student hangout."

The name changed to the Capitol Bar when the Emillios moved to the Plaza Café building on the corner.

Willie Emillio explained, somewhat cryptically, "We changed the name because the Green Front had changed."

Why did they make the move? We should keep in mind that the Green family may have still "owned" the business, but not the building. Fred Emillio and his partner, as lessees, either worked for them or paid a monthly



fee, in addition to paying rent, to Henry G. May.

Obviously, the Emillios now desired to have their own business. By renting the recently closed Plaza Café, adjacent to the Green Front on the north, and renovating it into the first Capitol Bar, they accomplished this goal.

Fred Emillio owned the liquor license, and when they moved to the Plaza Café building, the license went with him. The fate of the Green Front during this period is unknown and it's quite possible the establishment remained open as a pool hall.

Along with the extensive remodeling and the name change to the Capitol Bar,

Willie Emillio decided to make the operation even more of a class act by enrolling in the "Modern School of Bartending and Bar Management." He was awarded his diploma on Aug. 14, 1939.

The professional schooling is readily apparent in the boys' spiffy dress of white shirts and bow ties, plus the bar aprons, towels, and serving trays. Willie passed his newly acquired bartending talents to Frankie Emillio. The boys took great pride in their ability to mix any drink "in the book."

Fire Destroys the Capitol

On Sunday evening, June 16, 1940, a small rubbish fire, fanned by a stiff wind, quickly engulfed the new

Capitol Bar. The *Socorro Chieftain* announced the short-lived Capitol Bar, in business only about a year, with the headline: “Fire Razes Capitol Bar, Adjoining Building.”

“One of the most unfortunate features of the affair was the loss suffered by Mr. and Mrs. Frankie Emillio, who had but recently completed the furnishing of their apartment, which was on the second floor of the building,” the *Chieftain* reported.

Perhaps just as unfortunate was much of the family was out of town that Sunday night visiting relatives and learned of the fire upon their return to Socorro. Willie was in Detroit, Mich.

In those days, the Ford Motor Co. permitted purchasers of new vehicles to visit the Michigan factory and observe the assembly of their car from start to finish, and then they were handed their keys as it rolled off the assembly line.

Local attorney Carrie Enloe decided to take advantage of this. Willie Emillio went along for the ride and to help Enloe with the driving. Upon their return to Socorro, they stopped at the Wynoka Club on the north side of town for a little refreshment.



When the proprietor of the Wynoka Club saw Willie, he exclaimed, “Where have you been? The whole town has been trying to contact you. Your new bar burned down and it was a total loss.”

It was hard news, indeed. Even decades after the fact, Willie Emillio rarely talked about it. The Emillios’ loss far exceeded the amount of insurance they carried.

Rebuilding the Capitol

After the tragic fire, there was only one place for the boys to go – back to the Green Front Saloon, which, thanks to the foresight of Giovanni Biavaschi, survived the flames. About this same time, a more positive event took place when Fred Emillio, once so gravely ill,

recovered to the point where he rejoined his sons, at least on a part-time basis, in running the business.

The Emillios once again tackled the remodeling and immediately undertook extensive renovations. Some of their new ideas doubtless came with them from the previous remodeling of the corner building. These included beautiful

knotty pine paneling on walls and ceiling, a spacious dance floor, newly designed booths, modern bathrooms, and – “one of the Emillio boy’s pet innovations” – bar-mounted remote control jukebox selectors. Much of the woodwork was performed by local rancher Earl F. “Smokey” Pound.

The Emillios also introduced “Schlitz direct draw from Keg.” It was said, at the time, to be the only such facility between Albuquerque and Las Cruces to offer the brew. Willie and Frankie Emillio decided the outer appearance of the structure needed modernization as well, and covered Biavaschi’s rock-and-brick work with off-white or beige-colored stucco.

A major milestone in the history of the Biavaschi-Green Front-Capitol Bar occurred on Nov. 14, 1943, when Henry G. May, now well up in years, relinquished ownership of the venerable old structure to Fred Emillio, who by this time had recovered from his illness.

This included the lot to the south where the beer garden is located today. From this point until the business was sold to the DeBrine family, the Emillios retained full ownership.

With the outbreak of World War II, Willie and Frankie Emillio enlisted in military service in 1941. Upon their discharge, they returned to Socorro to resume their bartending careers. During the boys’ absence, Fred Emillio operated the business with hired help, mostly School of Mines students. Willie and Frankie Emillio continued that practice into the 1950s, as has the DeBrine family into the present.

Upon their return from the war, father and sons entered into a three-way partnership, effective April 1, 1946, with each owning a one-third interest in stock and real estate. This arrangement lasted a little more than a year, when Fred Emillio again decided he wanted to retire from full-time work behind the bar.



Frankie Emillio developed health problems and decided to pursue other endeavors. Willie Emillio became the sole owner on Sept. 6, 1947. However, Frankie Emillio continued to work at least part-time through the mid-1950s, and even Fred Emillio made occasional appearances when he felt up to it.



School of Mines student Bob Lane recalled Fred Emillio’s kindness and generosity upon his graduation. During his final shift, the day before he was to leave for Carlsbad to begin a new career in the potash industry, Fred Emillio took him aside and pressed a \$20 bill into his hand, saying, “Here’s a little

something to help you get started.” Lane was clearly overwhelmed by the gesture and to the day he died, he recalled Fred Emillio as a man with a heart of gold.

The post-World War II years are fondly remembered as the “golden years” by many old-timers – a time when a night out at the Capitol with Willie, Frankie and sometimes Freddie, was the epitome of Socorro’s night life. But Willie and Frankie Emillio didn’t operate in a vacuum. To the contrary, they had their share of notable competitors over the years and each was known for his own specialties and style of hospitality.

On the north side of town was the previously mentioned Wynoka Club, famous for its extensive dance area and “dancing every night.” Fence Acres was another popular club.

On California Street was the Sunset Bar, the predecessor of Sunset Liquors. Operating since 1932, the Sunset has the distinction of being the

calendar of events

longest surviving liquor establishment under one family's ownership – the Torres family.

On the northeast corner of Manzaneras and California streets was the Coronado Tavern. Being located “just around the corner” from each other, the proprietors of the Coronado and the Capitol for years engaged in friendly rivalry.

When the Emillios introduced keg beer on tap in 1940, Mike Piccininni and Pete Fellis (owners of the Coronado Bar) quickly followed suit. Likewise for the bar-mounted jukebox selectors.

The Coronado was locally famous for its hot buttered rum and Tom and Jerry recipes. However, Willie and Frankie Emillio's closely held recipe for the latter was considered near legendary.

The success and popularity of the dance floors at the Wynoka Club and the Coronado encouraged the Emillios to provide a similar feature at the renovated Capitol. For a



time, both establishments featured cafés, in conjunction with the bars, and both had their specialties.

For example, the Coronado was the local home of Chicken in the Rough, billed as “The Most Famous Chicken in the World.” Nestor Gonzales, who tended bar at the Capitol well into the 1970s, began his career with Willie and Frankie Emillio in 1954, by starting in the café located in the south half of the building.

Live entertainment was regularly featured and the practice continues into the present. During the big-band era, Willie and Frankie Emillio booked a wide variety of performers and instrumental combos.

Posters and broadsides (or flyers) from this period are exceedingly rare.

Much has been said of the close relationship the Emillios enjoyed with the School of Mines students. However, the authors would be remiss not to mention their long-standing friendship with the ranching community as well.

They acknowledged that friendship by decorating the knotty pine interior with exact facsimiles of as many of the local and regional cattle brands as could be “rounded up.” This included cleverly configured and humorous “brands” over both the women's and the men's room doors.

Other artistic touches included the famous and near-legendary series of eight oil paintings rendered by Willie's friend Fred Magher, which graced the upper walls around the bar area from 1949 until the building passed to the DeBrines. Magher was an accomplished artist and his renderings of Indian leaders Victorio and Sitting Bull were nothing short of remarkable, considering that Magher painted strictly from memory.

Totally forgotten today are the three highway billboard signs that Fred created for the Capitol Bar. These were positioned just outside of town where U.S. 60 and 85 approached Socorro from the north, south and west.

The signs were very colorful and depicted a thirsty sombrero-topped traveler riding a burro. Willie Emillio recalled that Magher bought the materials, built the framework, did the artwork and installed the signs – all for a mere \$100 each.

alumni receptions

Check www.nmt.edu/advancement for alumni reception event details

Socorro, NM 2012 Graduation Weekend



Thursday, May 10, 2012

New York/New Jersey



May 16-17, 2012

Dallas, TX



Wednesday, May 16, 2012
Thursday, May 17, 2012

Albuquerque, NM

Saturday, June 2, 2012

Midland, TX

Saturday, June 16, 2012

Boston, MA



Thursday, June 28, 2012

San Diego/China Lake/LA, CA

July 16-18, 2012

Elko, NV

Friday, August 10, 2012



Tucson, AZ

Friday, September 14, 2012



city events

May 4

Mariachi Buenaventura with Reynaldo Maestas & Baila Baila (NM Tech Performing Arts Series)

May 5

Very Large Array Guided Tours
Guided Night Sky Stargazing
Cinco de Mayo Parade
Cinco de Mayo Rodeo
Cinco de Mayo Celebration

May 12

International Bird Day

May 12-13

Mothers Day Pow Wow



Wild Bunch Rodeo Reunion Association Rodeo

June 2

Very Large Array Guided Tour
Guided Night Sky Stargazing

June 4-9

Socorro Open Golf Tournament, NM Tech Golf Course

June 9

Socorro Farmer's Market opens
Elfego Baca Shoot



July 4

20th Annual 4th of July Celebration

July 7

Very Large Array Guided Tour
Guided Night Sky Stargazing

July 13-15

Magdalena Old Timers Reunion

July 16-17

Sun Country Junior PGA Golf Tournament

July 24-25

Sun Country Junior PGA Championship

August 3

Youth Chile Harvest Triathlon

August 4

17th Annual Socorro Chile Harvest Triathlon
Very Large Array Guided Tour

Guided Night Sky Stargazing

Check www.socorro-nm.com for city events details.

Call For Entries

NEW MEXICO TECH
SCIENCE • ENGINEERING • RESEARCH UNIVERSITY

125 YEARS

New Mexico Tech is sponsoring two contests related to the **125th anniversary** of the university's founding in 1889.

Tech presents two challenges to students and alumni:

- ◆ create a new logo for the celebration, and
- ◆ recommend a slogan to accompany the logo.

The two winners will each receive a Kindle Fire.

Both the logo and slogan should be relevant to the 125th anniversary. Winning entries will be used on all New Mexico Tech promotional materials.

Contest entries should be e-mailed to marketing director Edie Steinhoff at esteinhoff@admin.nmt.edu. Logo design entries must be at least 5" x 5", 300 dpi and either JPG or PDF format.

Entry deadline is Friday, June 15.
Questions? Call LaVern at 835-5616

easley donation

Roger Easley, one of the original architects who designed the Fidel Center, recently donated a painting by his mother, the renowned Santa Fe artist Loyce Easley.

The painting, "Still Life With Cherries," will be housed in the president's home on campus. Mrs. Easley passed away in January 2002 at 83.

The Fine Art Museum of Santa Fe has four of her works in its permanent collection. She won many awards for her paintings, including the top award at the Southwest and Fiesta Biennials at the Museum of New Mexico. She staged one-woman

shows at many top galleries and museums across the nation during her career. She was represented by Jean Seth's Canyon Road Gallery in Santa Fe, Gallery A in Taos and the Savage Gallery locations in Santa Fe, Scottsdale, Ariz., Fort Worth and Dallas. She was a long-time resident of Santa Fe and Hobbs, along with her husband, former N.M. Supreme Court Chief Justice, Mack Easley.

Roger Easley said "Still Life With Cherries" was his father's favorite painting and that he displayed it in his offices and in his homes until his death.



L: Lonnie Marquez, Vice President for Administration and Finance, R: Roger Easley.

"like" us on facebook



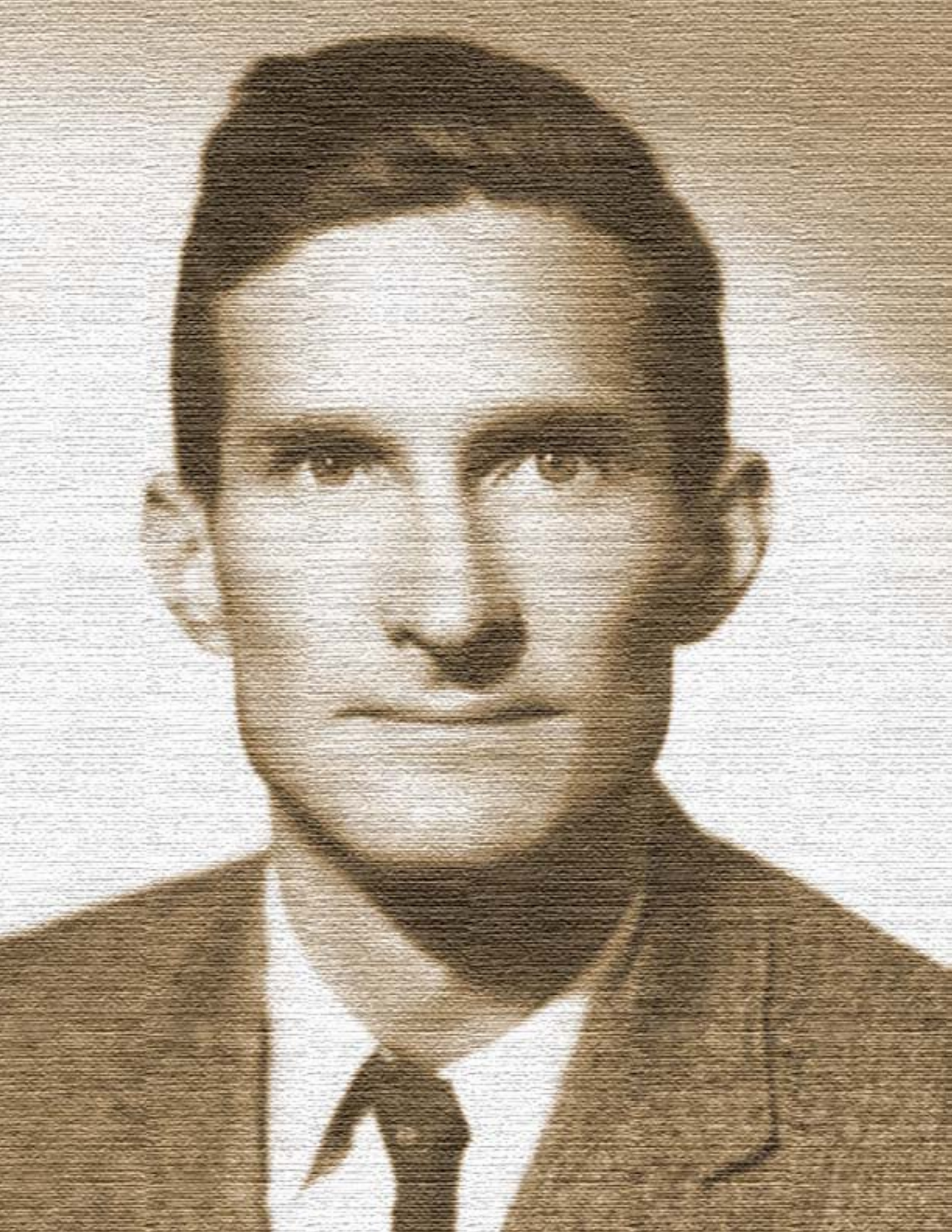
"Like" our New Mexico Tech Interaction Facebook page and you will receive automatic updates on current events and alumni news. Search for New Mexico Tech Alumni Interaction on Facebook and you will find us.

Ever wonder what happened to your old classmate? Where is he/she living? What career path have they taken? Find out when you register on our New Mexico Alumni Directory. When you register, you will become part of our NetCommunity and will be able to maintain your own profile information that will allow only New Mexico Tech alumni and past faculty to access your information. You will be able to post as much or as little information about yourself as you like. Feel free to explore other features of the NetCommunity as well.

<http://advancement.nmt.edu/alumnidirectory>

Visit our main New Mexico Tech website where you can read stories on featured alumni, see updated event information, shop our alumni store, view digital versions of past and current Gold Pan issues, and much more. See for yourself and keep informed.

<http://www.nmt.edu/advancement>



how we got here

the presidents' series: kenneth ford

Ford: Physics, Flying, Family and Faculty — and the Beat Goes On

By Valerie Kimble

Like the two men who preceded him as president of New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology, Dr. Kenneth W. Ford was a physicist.

The quiet and conservative academic took over Tech's executive's chair from Dr. Stirling A. Colgate, who could not have been more Ford's opposite in temperament and tone, even though both men were pilots as well as physicists.

And yet each man reflected the times in which he served.

Whereas Colgate's service (1965-1975) occurred during the turbulent "Vietnam Era," a period of change and controversy on college campuses across America, Ford took over in a less volatile era. During his service (1975-1982), it was the faculty that had grown restless, wanting greater independence.

The Board of Regents of that era had, in fact, granted the Faculty Association (now Faculty Senate) the power to make recommendations to the board without going through the president.

It was within this environment that Kenneth W. Ford took over as the 14th president of New Mexico Tech.

Even before taking his first step on campus, Ford had a preview of what was in store for him. In his words: "When several Tech Regents journeyed to Boston to interview me in early 1975, Socorro resident Jamie Woods was not among them. 'I'm not going to waste travel money to go and talk to another physicist,' he reportedly said."

(Later, the two became good friends, and Woods gave Ford the privilege of piloting his airplane.) "Prior to this interview," Ford continued, "I had asked my secretary for my file on New Mexico Tech. 'It's all here,' she said, 'Right from your

first letter saying you are not interested.' But I did become interested, and did accept the job, although uprooting my family was no small consideration."

At that time, he and his wife, Joanne, had seven children, ages six to 17. Their 12-year-old daughter, Caroline, accompanied her father in a Volkswagen Beetle on that first drive to Socorro. Joanne and the other children – Paul, Sarah, Nina, Adam, Jason and Lucas – followed, and the family settled into the president's house that the Regents had purchased from the Colgates.

"Even though we had been in New Mexico before, this was a whole new way of life," Ford said.

A World in Flux

The world was indeed

in a state of flux. It was the Me-Era, and students matriculating to colleges weren't doing so to rally the troops or oppose a war, but to prepare themselves for careers in a changing world.

Enrollment at New Mexico Tech reached its highest point in the history of the school under Ford, with a student head count average of 1,150 for the seven years of his tenure.

It was an era of construction changes campus-wide: The iconic "Tin Can," that World War II-era Quonset hut that personified the cultural life of Tech students, was removed to make way for the first two phases of the Mineral Science and Engineering Center, commonly known as MSEC.



The "Tin Can," a WWII quonset hut and hub for movies and social events.

The ancient Golf Course Clubhouse, where Lee Trevino once teed off during the Hilton Open, was razed, and in its place, the Petroleum Recovery Research Center was built in 1977. Meanwhile, a more modern clubhouse was built on a rise in the shadow of 'M' Mountain, and several golf course holes were restructured.

Cramer Hall was given a facelift, and an addition was built onto the Student Union Building. Driscoll Hall, the girls' dormitory, was deemed unfit for occupancy, so its inhabitants were relocated to mobile home units known by the tongue-in-cheek name of U-Hall, until the replacement for Driscoll was completed.

In the interim, students carved out a makeshift saloon and dance hall in the basement of old Driscoll, known to Techies and locals alike as The Ore House. It was a highly popular gathering place, comfortably dark, and reflected the social *mores* of the times – while it lasted, that is.

Historians will tell us that every university president can point to a building or a facility that marks his or her personal memorial. The Martin Speare Library was said to serve that purpose for Colgate. For Ford, there's little doubt he will be remembered for Macey Conference Center, with its outdoor amphitheatre overlooking the duck pond.



The critics of 30 years ago called it Ford's Folly; today, Macey Center, in the midst of its first major renovation, is the gracious lady on campus, hostess to Performing Arts Series events, weddings, anniversaries, graduation parties; and, on occasion, as a place to gather to honor and mourn those affiliated with the college who have passed on. There is nothing else of its kind in Socorro. Ford's Folly is now Ford's Finest.

In the Beginning

Although Ford was born in Florida, he grew up mostly in Kentucky, the son of a civil engineer and a homemaker. Being a Southerner provided an educational bonus: Ford qualified for a "regional scholarship" to Phillips Exeter Academy in New Hampshire, where he spent his junior and senior high school years, graduating in 1944.

From there, after a stint in the U.S. Navy, he entered Harvard, graduating in 1948; then on to Princeton for his Ph.D. in 1953, all in physics. His doctoral work at Princeton was a theoretical study of the structure of atomic nuclei.

His graduate studies were interrupted in 1950, when Ford joined a team at Los Alamos working on the design of thermonuclear weapons.

"Before that, I had never been farther west than Kentucky, and I instantly fell in love with New Mexico," Ford wrote. "At that time, I spent just one year, but I returned

to spend several later summers there and also came back for a couple of year-long sabbatical leaves."

Two of Ford's children – the first and the last – were born in Los Alamos. "I then followed a path familiar to many Ph.D.s: teaching and research in universities," wrote Ford. "This career path took me to Indiana University, Brandeis University, the University of California-Irvine, and the University of Massachusetts at Boston.

"At UC-Irvine, where I worked from 1964 to 1970, I was the first physics professor and first chair of the physics department. There I had the exciting and enjoyable job of helping to plan a brand-new campus, devise a new curriculum, and hire new faculty and staff members," he wrote.

Also during this period, Ford became an author. *The World of Elementary Particles* was published in 1963, followed by *Basic Physics* (1968) and by three volumes of *Classical and*

Modern Physics (1972-1974).

The Tech Years

Ford accedes to a mixed record during his seven years as Tech president. "I did achieve budget increases and money for buildings," he wrote. "I oversaw the founding of the Petroleum Recovery Research Center, gained good relations with alumni and Socorro townspeople, and initiated Tech's first professionally staffed office to raise funds from private sources. Enrollment grew, as did the school's reputation.

"But I made some bad senior appointments and was unskilled in dealing sensitively with faculty concerns," he wrote.

One anecdote illustrates this. "I was pleased when I was able to get Legislative approval for support of Tech's informal sports program – a small appropriation for some equipment and for two vans to transport teams to away-games. This caused a firestorm of faculty objection because of the fear that I was opening the door to 'big-

time' athletics at Tech, which no one wanted."

"After six years of my presidency, during which many faculty members felt insufficiently consulted, I got a no-confidence vote," Ford continued. "Although I retained the support of the Regents, I thought it best that I resign, and I did so the next year."

While at Tech, Ford was able to interact with students as a teacher, and

thoroughly enjoyed it.

Another anecdote: "One of my students came up to me one day and said, 'Dr. Ford, you are a much better teacher than administrator. Why don't you resign your presidency and become a full-time professor?' His view of my ability as president just reflected the common faculty view of that time. I hope that his view of my ability as a teacher was genuinely his own."

The record of Ford's wife, Joanne, was not mixed. "Besides caring for our children at home and playing very well the role of hostess, she volunteered in children's programs at the Socorro Public Library and with local music groups, and also worked to help achieve an outdoor playground on the campus for children from the community," Ford wrote. "Justifiably, she was much admired. She and I are both very pleased that her



Joanne and Kenneth Ford, 1981

name is now attached to that outdoor playground.”

The Post-Tech Years

After Tech, Ford served for a year-and-a-half as a chief assistant to the president of the University of Maryland system (with the title Executive Vice President), then headed a start-up biotech company in Philadelphia that didn't survive, served for a year as Education Officer of the American Physical Society; and, finally, five years after leaving Tech, he became the director of the American Institute



Kenneth Ford, 1992, aged 66

of Physics, then based in New York.

As AIP director, Ford made quite a few trips to Moscow and St. Petersburg, seeing close-up the disintegration of the Soviet Union and the blossoming of Russia. He and Joanne stayed rooted in Philadelphia where they have now lived for 27 years.

Ford retired from AIP in 1993 when he was 67, and reports having had quite a fulfilling life since then in various capacities: as director of science programs at the

David and Lucile Packard Foundation; as a part-time high-school physics teacher at two private schools, and as a writer and consultant.

His post-retirement books are *Geons, Black Holes, and Quantum Foam*, co-authored with John Wheeler (1998); *The Quantum World* (2004), *In Love with Flying* (2007), and *101 Quantum Questions* (2011).

“Like many elders, Joanne and I have done our share of traveling, including trips to China, North Africa, Turkey, Central Europe and Scandinavia,” Ford wrote. “In Philadelphia, Joanne remains busy and active as a student and volunteer in botanical and musical activities.

“My greatest personal reward came in 2006 when I received the Oersted Medal from the American Association of Physics Teachers, awarded for contributions to the teaching of physics.

“Now, in early 2012, our seven children are scattered from Rhode Island to



Ken Ford, member of the Society for Science & the Public (SSP)

California, with two of them in Albuquerque, and we have 14 grandchildren, aged two to 23. We have a lovely summer home in northern Pennsylvania near the village where Joanne grew up,” Ford wrote.

Flying

Ford took up flying in Santa Fe in the summer of 1953, while he was working at Los Alamos just after receiving his Ph.D. degree.

“I didn't know then whether it would be a summer lark or something longer lasting,” Ford wrote. “It lasted. When I stopped flying 50 years later after logging 4,500 hours as a pilot, and after earning a diamond soaring badge, I decided to write about it,

and the memoir *In Love with Flying* is the result.”

Being a pilot had a practical advantage when Ford was at Tech. He flew to alumni gatherings in Denver, Phoenix, and Houston; and, sometimes farther afield, to the left and right coasts on Tech business.

“I flew so often to Santa Fe that I thought my plane could find its way there without my help,” Ford wrote. “It was my association with Charlie Moore and his odd research airplane, the SPTVAR (pronounced Spitfire) that led me into flying gliders.”

[Please see review of *In Love with Flying* on page 41.](#)

Career Threads

Ford has been a teacher, researcher, writer, and administrator. He conducted what might be called serious hard-core research in theoretical physics for only about 15 years, from age 24 to 39. “Teaching, on the other hand, has been an important part of my



1999 age 73 with Crow Indian tie

life from the time I first tutored a varsity football player in calculus when I was an undergraduate, until the present day – about 65 years,” Ford continued.

“My stints as an administrator were at UC Irvine, New Mexico Tech, the University of Maryland,

the Philadelphia biotech company, and the American Institute of Physics, totaling some 24 years. As it turned out, I was never able to fit writing into my schedule when I was a full-time administrator, so the books got written during periods when I was doing mainly teaching and research, or

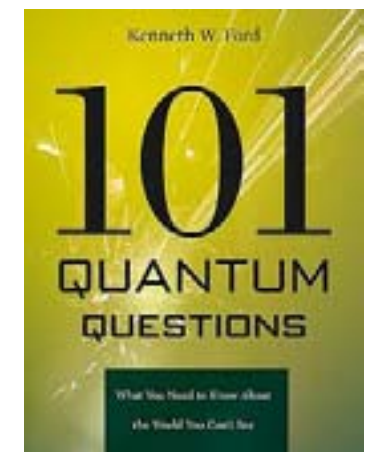
after retirement.”

Life at 85

Ford's last book, *101 Quantum Questions*, appeared just before his 85th birthday. “Now I am trolling for another writing project,” Ford wrote.

And in the meantime? Tutoring, both in person and online; occasional substitute teaching; reviewing manuscripts for a publisher and articles for a physics-teaching magazine; working as an advisor to his friend Paul Hewitt on his textbooks and other projects; and making the occasional trip to Chile to serve on an advisory panel to that country's national science foundation.

In closing: “Joanne and I enjoy reasonably good





seven hours, and, three years later, soared to over 27,000 feet in a mountain wave and earned his diamond soaring badge. All things considered, Kenneth W. Ford stands mighty tall among his peers.

Editor's note: Gold Pan conducted this interview by email, with Dr. Ford living in Philadelphia, and our writing staff some 2,000 miles away in Socorro. Too bad. Our writing staff would have enjoyed a (virtual) lesson on engine-less flying.



1996 age 70 just after 500 km flight

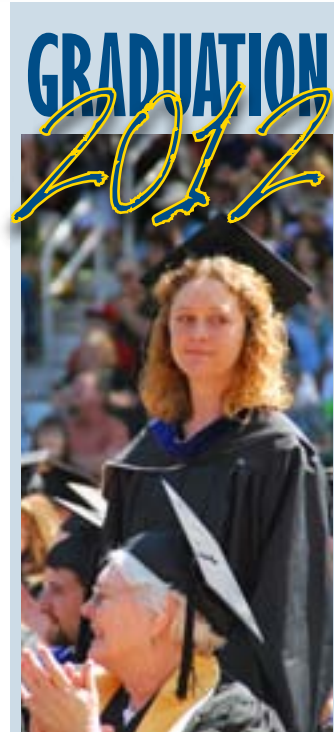
health and keep busy at work and play out of our Philadelphia house," Ford wrote. "We live in a neighborhood where every other car (including my own) is a Prius.

"Somehow we stay in pretty close touch with the 26 members of our immediate family – our children, their spouses, and their children. Our upcoming trips are to California and then the United Arab Emirates and Venice."

Epilogue

In terms of diversity, Ford perhaps accrued the lengthiest resumé of his predecessors – although certainly the 13 gentlemen who preceded him brought their own colorful interests to Tech's executive suite.

Still, there is something singular about an individual who, at the age of 70, with fierce determination, flew a glider more than 500 kilometers in a little over



The Pomp. The Circumstance.

THE 2012
NEW MEXICO TECH
GRADUATION

Pomp and Circumstance
May 12, 2012
9 am

NEW MEXICO TECH
SCIENCE • ENGINEERING • RESEARCH UNIVERSITY

New Mexico Tech has several large construction projects under way, nearly completed or on the horizon.

Macey Center has been mostly closed for installation of a new air conditioning system since the fall of 2011. The Performing Arts Series events continued to be held at Macey, as well as Science Olympiad awards and other special events. Most conferences were moved to the Fidel Center. Work is expected to be completed by the end of April.

The Macey Family Children's Center is completed. Operations moved to the new building in April. Demolition of the current child care center will commence as soon as possible in April. The new project was funded by a significant donation from Bill and Cheryl Macey, with dozens of faculty, staff, alumni and community members donating to the project as well. The new Center is just south of the Macey Center.

The new Center will have 6,000 square-feet of indoor space and 9,142 square-feet of outside area. The Center has increased its capacity from 32 to 48 children.

The Macey Family Children's Center is the only full-time year-round children's center in the county. The new facility allows the Center to become a five-star accredited facility, said Children's Center Director Ann Sullivan.

The Center now has specific features that the old facility lacked. The bathrooms open to the children's area as well as the outdoor playground. The new building also



Macey Family Children's Center

construction notes

has conference rooms for consulting with parents in private, Sullivan said.

The plan for a new dorm has changed. Baca Hall will no longer be demolished. The new dorm will add 150 beds to the campus and will be built on the south side of the Athletic Field, across from the SAC. The \$10 million project will be funded by a bond that was sold last fall. The construction is expected to be completed in time for the fall 2013 semester.

Beyond student housing, the new residence hall will provide social, learning and living spaces designed to encourage student interaction and build a sense of community.

The architectural and landscaping design for the new residence hall will enhance the traditional architecture of the signature look of the Tech campus. The building will incorporate open space and feature common areas designed to foster community and a richer experience for Techies.

The area left vacant by the demolition of the existing children's center will be used as parking to serve the new dorm and Baca Hall.

The 2012 Legislative session saw New Mexico Tech approved for an \$18 million General Obligation bond to provide construction funds for a new building for the N.M. Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources. The G.O. Bond will be presented to New Mexico voters during the November 2012 general election. The project is expected to cost about \$24 million. Tech will seek other funding sources for the remainder of the project, if the bond election is approved.

reception recap

Since the last edition of Gold Pan, the Office for Advancement has been hosting alumni receptions across the country, some of which are highlighted with pictures in this edition. We hosted receptions in Bethesda, Md.; Alexandria, Va.; Denver; Reno; Las Vegas; Dallas; Houston; Seattle; Tucson; and Chicago. We hope to continue to increase attendance in each of our locations this year. We have provided our alumni with a list of scheduled alumni receptions for the entire year of 2012 on our website www.nmt.edu/advancement.



Bob Eveleth, Valerie Kimble

This schedule is subject to change; however, this provides the opportunity for our alumni to plan their attendance at any location. We have been able to make a lot of nice connections with our alumni and friends and these receptions provide



Jerry Mericle, Mark Deters

a great way to network and reconnect people while sharing stories of their experiences at New Mexico Tech. All alumni and friends are welcome to attend any of our receptions regardless of their permanent address.



John & Dr. Michaelann Tartis

If you would like to attend any of these receptions, feel free to contact the Office for Advancement and Alumni Relations and express your intent to attend the event. We look forward to seeing



Sohaib Soliman, Navid Mojtabai

you for the first time, or again this year.



Tom Dillon and Edie Sutham

2011 49ERS RECAP

This year we are pleased to announce a successful 49ers weekend for our New Mexico Tech alumni. We had one of the biggest attendances on record and we hope that sets a



Colleen Guengerich, Art Colgate

precedent for the coming years. One event at 49ers we are hoping to increase



Steve Padilla, Erick Dang, and Lewis Gillard

is our “Decades Reunion” reception.

At the reception we divide the ballroom up into decade sections, allowing alumni to mingle with their specific decades while still providing the opportunity to mingle with everyone. We will be seeking feedback on what our alumni would like to see or do this year in the coming months.

Your feedback is very important to us, as this weekend is designed to not only reminisce on your days at Tech, but also to provide you with the opportunity to rekindle past relationships and make new ones.



faculty awards

dr. cathy aimone-martin

dr. rafael lara-martinez



Dr. Cathy Aimone-Martin on-site in New York City

Professor Emeritus Gets Top Industry Award

By Thomas Guengerich

Dr. Cathy Aimone-Martin has dedicated her career to explosions. The retired Tech professor spent 25 years educating mineral engineers in the finer points of explosives, rock blasting and vibration monitoring.

Since retiring in 2006, she has embarked on a new career as a consultant and contractor for companies in coal mining, quarrying, construction and other civil engineering projects. In February, Aimone-Martin was recognized for her career achievements with the Distinguished Service Award from the International Society of Explosives Engineers.

“This award is way past due,” said Dr. Navid Mojtabai, chairman of the Mineral Engineering Department. “She’s done so much for the Society and for the field. She’s done a lot in the areas of instrumentation and blasting vibration. When there’s a high-profile job, she’s the first to get the call.”

Aimone-Martin was conducting some

underwater blasting on the Columbia River in 2008 when she got one of those calls. The Fire Department of New York was overseeing blasting for the reconstruction of the subway station adjacent to Ground Zero at the site of the World Trade Center.

“The chief inspector Jimmie Lauer called me and my associate, a PhD

graduate from New Mexico Tech, and said, 'I want you to get this project going. I need you,'” Aimone-Martin said. “That work came natural to us. We were blasting right next to tall buildings at the south end of Manhattan and we got the rock excavation completed on time.”



Close-in urban blasting in New York.

For four months in the dead of winter, Aimone-Martin oversaw seven or eight blasts every day, six days a week. She helped the blasters apply explosive products, set up instrumentation, and used vibration monitoring as a guide to blast designs.

“New York presents many challengers,” she said. “Manhattan schist is the hardest rock I’ve worked with. We were blasting next to subways and high-rises. Some of the job sites were near iconic buildings such as Carnegie Hall, the Russian Tea Room, and Tiffany’s. We have to be extremely careful using explosives close-in to structures while everyone is watching. In addition, we must deal with the complexities of construction management and regulatory agencies.”

Aimone-Martin Associates is a company that specializes in blasting and vibration control.

“We are not a blasting company but rather we help blasters be the best they can,” Aimone-Martin said. “That’s my vision. We help blasters be safe, and cost-effective.”

Over the years, Aimone-Martin has assisted blasters in the application of many innovations to the explosives industry, including new explosives, detonators, initiation



Underwater blast on the Columbia River. Aimone-Martin Associates did all the underwater pressure measurements.

systems and developed new data-gathering instruments.

“We use data as a tool,” Aimone-Martin said. “We use special analyses of measured ground and structure motions to modify the blasting process in an effort to protect structures.” Keeping nearby structures safe during rock blasting is part of the public relations needed to be successful.

Her successes at the World Trade Center site led to

several other high-profile jobs in Manhattan and necessitated the opening of an office in the city.

“The World Trade Center job was our breakthrough,” Aimone-Martin said. “That launched our career and took it to a new level. It has been a privilege to work there and on other projects.”

Around the same time, Aimone-Martin fielded an email from Anthony Simonitis, the special effects guru working on the *Terminator: Salvation* movie.

“I got an email from someone asking to purchase seismographs,” Aimone-Martin said. “I am always skeptical when people I do not know want to purchase equipment. I searched the Internet and he turned out to be the top special effects person in Hollywood. So, I thought I’d better call him.”

Aimone-Martin helped monitor fireball-type “explosions” that later appeared in the movie.

Later this year, Aimone-Martin will work on a large New Mexico project – constructing in-take structures at the Ute Reservoir in Logan.

“I enjoy working on New Mexico projects, close to home,” she said.

Aimone-Martin Associates first became incorporated in 2000 when she landed a large contract from the federal Office of Surface Mining. New Mexico Tech, as a public institution, could not administer the contract, so she started a shell company to run the grant. That grant supported

five graduate students who conducted research on coal mine blasting. Upon her retirement, Aimone-Martin Associates continued consulting work with offices in Socorro and in Hawaii. Since then, she has worked all over the country.

She stays connected to New Mexico Tech in several ways. She teaches the Drilling and Blasting course and often hires Tech master’s students.

“I love hiring Tech’s grad students,” Aimone-Martin said. “New Mexico Tech educates exceptional students in the explosives engineering programs. I have one mechanical engineering student now and I plan to hire one more.”

She fell in love with Socorro and New Mexico Tech almost instantly when she interviewed for a faculty position.

“I came to New Mexico in 1980 after earning a doctorate at Northwestern University and Socorro won my heart,” she said. “The people here are genuine and very dedicated.”

She served as department chair, advised dozens of graduate students, taught classes, conducted research and raised her two daughters. She used the mines of New Mexico as field laboratories.

“I was very lucky,” she said. “The administration was very supportive of independent ideas and helped the faculty to succeed.”

Aimone-Martin always stayed in close contact with leaders in private industry – to find research projects and to better define the Mineral Engineering Department’s curriculum.

“I asked the mining industry what they needed in an engineer,” she said. “They wanted graduates that knew how to solve problems and how to communicate. So we revamped the curriculum based on that.”

The company is a family affair. Her daughter Jennifer runs the Socorro office and is the heir apparent to take over New Mexico operations. Her

daughter Sara lives in Utah and recently completed her first engineering job for Aimone-Martin Associates.

Jennifer was the secret keeper and co-conspirator to surprise Cathy with the award at the annual ISEE banquet.

“It was a total surprise and I feel extremely honored,” she said. “I could not have achieved my successes without the support of my peers and colleagues. The blasting industry represents some of the most dedicated people in the field of engineering and I am proud to have joined the ranks.”



Dr. Catherine Aimone-Martin

Professor Receives National Cultural Award in El Salvador

by Thomas Guengerich

Professor Dr. Rafael Lara-Martinez received a top honor in his native El Salvador in November 2011. The professor of Spanish received the National Cultural Award from the President Mauricio Funes.

“I’m very happy,” Lara-Martinez said. “Of course, I am always going to be happy about this. My country is recognizing me for my publications and achievements. I did a jump of happiness, dance and sing.”

Lara-Martinez earned his bachelor’s in Mexico and his master’s and doctorate



from the Sorbonne in France. A faculty member at Tech since 1994, he has devoted his career to the literature of El Salvador and the indigenous languages of his country.

His academic masterpiece is the book, *Pipiles de Izalco*, a text devoted to the native language of El Salvador, which is related to the Ute languages spoken by Native Americans in the Four Corners region.

He has also published several anthologies of nearly-lost works by El Salvadoran literary writers. He won the National Culture Award based on the body of his work in literature and linguistic anthropology.

“The award is given to a person who has contributed to Salvadoran culture and historical memory,” he said. “This is a lifetime achievement award.”

The awards ceremony on November 3 coincided with the celebration of national independence, which is November 5.



Lara-Martinez said he was pleased to be able to take part in the bicentennial of Central American independence.

Regarding his academic and literary research, he is especially proud of his work to preserve the native language of pre-Columbian peoples of El Salvador. The government still does not officially recognize the native peoples, Lara-Martinez said, because then the

government would have to recognize their rights to ancestral lands.

His work has lent academic credence to the language, culture and mythology of the Pipil history in the region. He said his book, *Pipiles de Izalco*, was intimidating to the general reader because of its academic nature. So, he has reformatted the book to be accessible to high school and college students. The new edition

will be 100 pages and cost \$5 – a far cry from the original 600-page tome.

While in his home country, he presented the new version of *Pipiles de Izalco* at a special event. He unveiled another new book at two universities on Thursday morning, just hours before visiting the Presidential Palace.

Lara-Martinez won the Distinguished Researcher Award at New Mexico Tech in 2003 – the only time a professor in the humanities has won the award.

“For him to win that award at a technical institution is an amazing recognition,” said Dr. Peter Gerity, vice president of academic affairs. “I value him as one of our most recognized and accomplished faculty members at New Mexico Tech. On top of everything else, he is one of the most personable people and an excellent teacher.”

Gerity, who has worked in El Salvador, said the academic and government leaders in the country have

universal respect for Lara-Martinez and his work.

“I am very pleased that El Salvador has officially recognized his work and given him this award,



which is very competitive,” Gerity said.

Dr. Mary Dezember, associate vice president for academic affairs and fellow professor in the CLASS Department, said Lara-Martinez is very deserving of these prestigious accolades.

“To be presented an award of this magnitude

and significance by the President of El Salvador is a great honor for Rafael, for the Department and for New Mexico Tech,” Dezember said. “Our institution benefits from Rafael’s dedication to cultural and literary research.”

Lara-Martinez said he was thrilled to be able to visit the Palace – a building he had seen many times from the outside. He said he enjoyed greeting President Funes, who was a classmate and friend of Lara-Martinez’ younger brother when they were in Jesuit school. President Funes regularly visited the home of Lara-Martinez when they were boys.

Lara-Martinez is a prolific writer. His publications include the collected works of the Salvadoran guerrilla-poet Roque Dalton and Pedro Geoffroy Rivas. He co-authored *Remembering a Massacre in El Salvador* with Héctor Lindo-Fuentes and Erik Ching in 2007. Other works include *La Tormenta Entre Las Manos: Ensayos Polémicos de Literatura Salvadoreña*

in 2000; *Ensayos Sobre Antropología y Literatura: Entre Ciencia y Ficción* in 2004, and *Balsamera Bajo La Guerra Fría* in 2009, just to name a few of his publications.

Lara-Martinez is an energetic and enthusiastic writer and researcher, despite a recent battle with cancer.

“I have a lot of energy,” he said. “I don’t worry about cancer. In the spirit of el dia de los muertos ... I know I will die; it’s inevitable. I just worry about writing a new book. People send me e-mails about cancer and I don’t read them. I’d rather read poetry and listen to good music. I leave the medicine up to the doctors and don’t worry about it.”



sports @ tech

Sport Clubs Take Up Where Varsity Left Off

By Dave Wheelock/Tech Sport Club Coordinator

The request is not uncommon among the institute's community: "I would like to see the time when Tech starts a limited intercollegiate athletic program," wrote the anonymous respondent to an Office of Advancement query.

As the years pass, fewer and fewer Tech students, faculty, and staff members are aware of the institution's former glory in intercollegiate athletics. Yet it is there – in the lower lobby trophy cases at the Macey Performing Arts Center, in the library archives, and in the memories of those alumni who've heard the tale.

The first days of the New Mexico School of Mines "Muckers" gridiron team was in 1903 and the last intercollegiate sports were in 1948. Many within the campus community were concerned that a

continued emphasis on sports might hinder the university's academic mission. Those concerns led to the abrupt halt of the varsity sports program. Yet, for the previous half-century, the small college on the Rio Grande punched significantly above its weight on regional fields, diamonds, tracks, and courts (See sidebar, page 34).

The Rise And Fall Of Varsity Sports At Tech Or Blame It On The Basketeers



PIPPIN, MGR. PARK, CRONIN, HELGOS, RYAN, CRAWFORD, COACH
FEE, MYATT, EMERICK, CAPT. KLEIN
1903-1910



FOOTBALL TEAM 1926
Top Row— PARK (Mgt.), FINE (Trainer), MACKINNON, LEWIS, NORTON, CRAWFORD (Coach)
Middle Row— DAVIS, HEN, STAFFORD, MYATT, WOOD, AND
Bottom Row— BILGREN, BROWN, GIBSON, FEE (Capt.), LANTIER, EMMERS, HARRISON

In 1926 the Southwest Athletic Conference was inaugurated among five area schools competing in football, baseball, basketball, tennis, and track. The SAC was comprised of New Mexico School of Mines, New

Mexico University (now UNM), State Teachers' College (Western NMU), NM Normal School (Highlands University), and the New Mexico Military Institute.

The athletic prowess ultimately deemed inappropriate for an institute of higher learning like New Mexico School of Mines was undoubtedly that of the basketball team, which advanced to the Amateur Athletics Association national tournament in Denver in 1935. (According to Tech grad and former regent Chuck Zimmerly, whose father Dick played on that '35 team, Tech's East gym, still in use today, was built as a

"reward" for this team's success.) Another standout team advanced to the National Intercollegiate Championship Tournament in Kansas City in 1939, yet perhaps it was the physical proportions of the 1948 team that led to the downfall of varsity sports at Tech.

One might imagine how a dedicated educator like School of Mines president Dr. E. J. Workman viewed the basketball team, which featured two players seven feet in height and another nearly as tall. After Workman terminated the varsity program, one of the giants, Elmo Morgenthaler, went on to play professionally for the Providence Steamrollers – but not before verifying Workman's suspicions by transferring to Boston College and flunking three classes!

Intramural Sports At Tech

Today, the pursuit of sport at Tech finds its home in the Physical Recreation

Department's sport club program. Separate from the 56 clubs administered by the Student Association and the school's intramural sport program, on any given weekend devotees of 16 sport clubs (in 2011-2012) may be in action.

The climbing club could be headed for the Enchanted Towers area near Datil, N.M., while the Lady Miners are engaged in an Albuquerque Soccer



Philip Simon at the Enchanted Tower circa 1985



Lady Miners Soccer

League match. The Tech Tonics women's and men's volleyball clubs are hosting a tournament in Tech's west gym, and the shooting sports club is competing at the National Intercollegiate Rifle Club National Championships.

Meanwhile Tech's very own ultimate Frisbee team may be playing a tournament in Las Vegas, Nev., even as the men's soccer club hosts NMSU and UTEP in a National Intramural and Recreational Sport Association – sanctioned round robin; the ladies of the Queens rugby club are in Albuquerque for a friendly match with the nationally-ranked Atomic Sisters; and one element of the paintball club is creeping through the nearby bosque while a smaller number of "speedballers" in San

Antonio compete against teams from a far-flung collection of universities.

Back by popular demand for the 39th consecutive year are the Pygmies of the Tech Rugby Club who, with a little help from alumni players, have toured Wales, Ireland, and England over the years. (Full disclosure: the author also coaches the team.)

New this year are the bicycling and baseball clubs, while the martial arts, golf, cricket, and caving (did someone say diverse?) clubs round out the collection.

In addition to the activities of their own chosen club, Tech's sporting enthusiasts also occasionally act as a unified group. At



Paintballer at Tech



Tech Shooting Club: Clockwise from front are coach Dr. Ginger McLemore, Camille Bryant, Elizabeth Barbeau, David Best and Alex Egerton.

the height (or depth, depending on one's level of preparation) of final exams week in December 2011, the council of sport clubs organized and conducted the first Sport Club Holiday Harvest, a food and clothing drive to benefit the Socorro Storehouse and Puerto Seguro, local allies in aiding local citizens in need.

This April, for the third year, sport club members will "clean up" to enjoy that perennial Techie favorite – free food – at an outdoor barbecue

underwritten by the divisions of Student and University Relations, Research and Economic Development, and Physical Recreation in honor of each club's outstanding members. The apex of the event will be the naming of New Mexico Tech's Sportswoman and Sportsman of the academic year, nominated and selected by their peers. In 2011 Elizabeth Barbeau (shooting) and Jacob Douglass (soccer) took home the trophies. New Mexico Tech may no longer field bruising

defensive ends or deadly three-point shooters, but what the university lacks in a few high-profile (and high budget) sports teams is compensated for with diversity and inclusiveness. The inspiration, planning, and action necessary to maintain a sports club at Tech comes from the students themselves, and the chosen passion of those who participate can provide an experiential taste of the kind of organizational and planning skills they will rely upon after graduation.



Soccer Practice

Sporting Events Add to 49ers Flavor/Mystique/Nostalgia/Fun

Two of the longest-running sport clubs on the New Mexico Tech campus, men's rugby and soccer, have for several years staged real homecoming games during the annual 49ers celebration in October, featuring student versus alumni teams competing for bragging rights for an entire year.

These classic events give returning alumni the chance to get down and dirty (maybe even bloody) with real, live, 21st century Techies – or to take in the fray from a safe distance.

The Pygmies of the Tech Rugby Club will be smarting from last year's 73-14 drubbing when they kick off to their Ancestors, comprised of Pygmy greats of recent (and not so recent) vintage. Live play-by-play commentary, refreshments, and Pygmy souvenirs help make the Black & Blue alumni match a prominent 49ers tradition.

Kickoff is at 4:30 p.m. Friday, October 19, at the Tech athletic ground.



NMT graduate Dylan Merrigan looks for a gap between student players Conrad Peterson (number 17) and Jay Herrera (number 9). At left is referee Dr. Clint Richardson of the NMT faculty. Photo by John Rundberg

Tech's Miners will face their own forebears in an alumni soccer match on 49ers Saturday, October 20. One of the big questions in this match: for which side will Tech coach Brad Winton play? The match begins at 1 p.m. at the Tech athletic ground and will be followed by an all-in coed match, so bring your cleats! For information or to join the alumni team contact Tech's sport club coordinator Dave Wheelock, dwheelock@admin.nmt.edu or (575) 835-5854.

Are you looking for a job? Or, perhaps you are an employer looking to hire Techies. The Career Services Office is here to help. Career Services is committed to helping all students and alumni reach their career-related goals.

Career Services recently launched a new system for finding jobs and internships: Career Connect. The site allows students and alumni to view jobs posted specifically for Techies as well as jobs matching search criteria from other universities and job boards. Links to Career Connect can be found on the new Career Services website at www.nmt.edu/career-services. While there, visitors should be sure to check out the video featuring recruiters at the Fall Career Fair responding to the question, "What advice would you give students attending Career Fair?" Additionally, announcements regarding upcoming interviews, information sessions, and other events are posted on the Career Services website and also on the office's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/

NMTCareerServices. All services provided by the office are available to alumni as well as current students. This includes resume and cover letter reviews; mock in-person, phone, and Skype interviews; job search assistance; networking advice; workshops; and more.

The Office of Career Services is also eager to work with alumni whose organizations are hiring Tech students and grads. Job openings, whether posted through Career Connect or emailed directly, are shared with students and alumni via email, office postings, and notices around campus. Furthermore, the office welcomes alumni to campus to conduct interviews, host information sessions and

workshops, and meet with faculty and staff. Career Fair is another excellent way to connect with students. The Fall Career and Graduate School Fair will be Thursday, Sept. 20, in the Fidel Center. More than 500 students are expected to attend this event. Registration information will be available at www.nmt.edu/career-fair.

The opportunities are endless, and Career Services is willing to work with alumni in any and all capacities. Alumni interested in working with Career Services should contact Christina Anthony, Career Services Coordinator, at canthony@admin.nmt.edu or Lillian Armijo, Director of Student Affairs, at larmijo@admin.nmt.edu.



dr. dimitri mihalas

a man of diverse interests

By Valerie Kimble

Spend an hour with Dr. Dimitri Mihalas, and enter a diverse world of physics, art, etymology and linguistic semantics, as befits a scholar, world traveler, collector and benefactor.

Titles of the 593 books Mihalas recently donated to New Mexico Tech's Skeen Library just scratch the surface of the man's many interests.



Gold Pan visited the home the scientist shares with Anke, his wife of nine years, and with two feline companions – Tiger and Miss Cleo – in Santa Fe, literally where civilization ends (“we can hear the coyotes at night”) and the desert begins, to photograph Mihalas amid

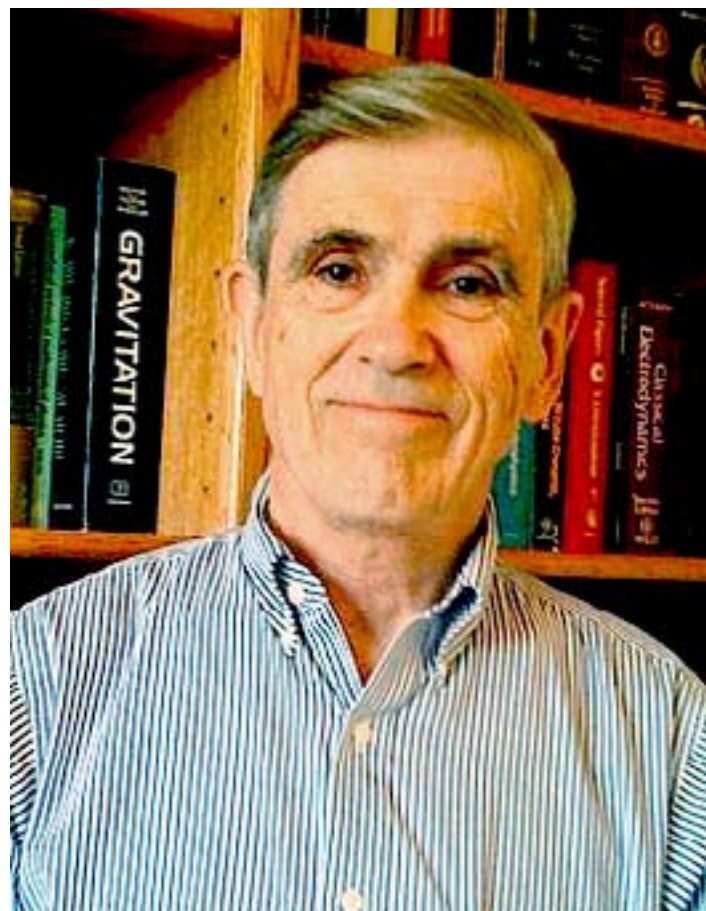
his many treasures. We learned much about both in a wide-ranging conversation impossible to reproduce here. Suffice it to say, Mihalas is a many-faceted jewel.

At the age of 42, California-born-and-educated Mihalas became a member of the National Academy of Science, among a long list of awards and professional associations.

But the first thing you undoubtedly will learn is that Mihalas is bipolar, and credits a New Mexico physician with recognizing his condition and prescribing a serotonin receptor reuptake inhibitor (SRRI) as treatment.

He first discovered Santa Fe as a member of a board that met at the geographic center of four regions, and his admiration for the culture and history deepened.

Mihalas's association with New Mexico Tech grew from his friendship with Dr. Michelle Creach-Eakman from a summer



in Norway where she was a student in a radiation hydrodynamics course he taught in Oslo.

“I enjoyed the time I spent at New Mexico Tech,” Mihalas said. “The campus is beautiful, and the students are *really* smart!”

Mihalas said he was very impressed by the facilities and the high quality of the students, professors, and support staff.

“Especially Gina Chavez, the administrator in the physics department, who immediately did *exactly* the right things when I fainted one day while lecturing due to low blood pressure!”

He recently left his position as a laboratory fellow in astronomy, astrophysics, and stellar atmosphere, at the Los Alamos National Laboratory.

The good doctor will share details of a fascinating family history dating back to Greece with forays into Turkey and Armenia. He embraces the Quaker's view of pacifism along with John Donne philosophies and ancient world views of man and the metaphysical.

But it was the astrophysical world on which Mihalas built his scientific career. He recalls looking at a photographic image of Saturn as a child and asking his uncle, “Is that *real*?”

It was a short step to acquiring a small telescope and then on to astronomy and astrophysics. Mihalas obtained his bachelor's degrees in physics, mathematics, and astronomy from UCLA in 1959. In one year, he received his master's from Cal Tech, followed by a Ph.D. in 1963 in physics and astronomy, also from Cal Tech.

More recently, he and Anke enjoy visiting the galleries on Santa Fe's Canyon Road and adding to their acquisition of

paintings by Deborah Gold and his own collection of Kachina dolls and teddy bears, each with its own name and history.



Santa Fe artist, Deborah Gold.

That some of the stories behind the artifacts reflect tales of morality that mesh with Mihalas's own personal view of the world comes as no surprise.

Rounding out his interests is a longtime study of what he calls general semantics, the science of knowledge and what language means in deriving the definition of words from the context in which they're used.

But if you want to learn something a tad easier to comprehend, ask him how a hydrogen bomb works.

dr. dimitri mihalas

the collection

New Mexico Tech's Joseph R. Skeen Library and its patrons are the beneficiaries of an eclectic collection of tomes donated by Dr. Dimitri Mihalas, a well known astrophysicist and author.

The donation was a result of his friendship with Dr. Michelle Creech-Eakman, Associate Professor of Astrophysics at Tech, who met Mihalas when she took a graduate course in theoretical astrophysics from him in Norway 17 years ago.

The prolific Mihalas has written eight textbooks and edited five, either by himself or with a co-editor, and has authored 150 scientific papers.



Mihalas with some of his collection of Kachina dolls and teddy bears.

The Mihalas collection comprises 573 listings in Libros, the library's database. Volumes range

from treatises that reflect his scientific interests, such as *Physics of the Sun* (1985), which he co-edited; and quite a few books on astrophysics, cosmology, galaxies, mathematics, nuclear reactor theory, quasars and relativity; and many bibliographies.

There also are books on linguistics, Russian history, communism, biographies of famous scientists, such as *Explorer of the Universe: A Biography of George Ellery Hale* by Helen Wright (1966); philosophers: *Ludwig Wittgenstein* by David Francis Pears (1970); ancient Rome: *The Lives of the Twelve Caesars* by Suetonius (ca. 69-ca. 122), published in 1937; and his interest in psychiatry: *A Dream of Undying Fame: How Freud Betrayed His Mother and Invented Psychoanalysis*, Louis Bregen (1991).

And look for books with a distinctly Southwestern flavor, such as American Indian Poetry: *An Anthology of Songs and Chants*, first published in 1918; and Rudolfo Anaya's masterpiece, *Bless Me, Ultima*.

people you know

1960's

Brad Yonaka

(M.S. geochemistry) Bellhaven Copper & Gold Inc. announced the appointment of Brad Yonaka to the position of Vice President of Exploration.

Yonaka has more than 20 years of experience as a mining and exploration geologist in South America and Africa. He has a bachelor's degree in geological engineering from the Colorado School of Mines and a master's degree in geochemistry from New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology.

Yonaka comes to Bellhaven from Gold Reserve Inc., where he worked for 15 years as an exploration geologist, chief geologist and exploration manager. At Gold Reserve, Yonaka was responsible for building the geologic model and was instrumental in the drill out and management of the exploration program at the world class Brisas gold and copper deposit in Venezuela. He also

directed evaluations and green field exploration on a host of other targets in the Guyana Shield. Most recently, he had been evaluating new opportunities throughout the world for Gold Reserve.

Patrick Highsmith CEO of Bellhaven said, "We are excited to welcome Mr. Brad Yonaka on board at Bellhaven. He brings a track record of drilling gold, tremendous intellect, extraordinary team skills, and a passion for discovery that are rare and infectious. He is also fluent in Spanish and Latin American culture. Brad's skill set is well matched with our objectives and his experience is directly relevant. These are some of the core strengths that make Brad an ideal choice to lead our geological team."

Craig Corey

(B.S. environmental engineering) Craig Corey was recently hired as marketing manager for HDR Inc.'s office in Albuquerque, according to the Feb. 3, 2012, edition of the New

Mexico Business Weekly. Previously, he was the business development manager for Rinchem Co. Corey earned a bachelor's in environmental engineering from New Mexico Tech and a degree in administration/marketing from the University of New Mexico.

1970's

Dean T. "Ted" Wilton

(B.S. geology; 1973) Dean T. "Ted" Wilton was named the Vice President and Chief Geologist for Uranium Resources Inc. on April 2, 2012. Wilton earned a bachelor's in geology from New Mexico Tech in 1973. He was honored at commencement last year with the 2011 Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award.

Uranium Resources Inc. is a development and mining company with resources in New Mexico and Texas. Wilton, who has over 40 years of experience in the mining industry, will be responsible for the development and implementation of exploration and

delineation policies, systems, processes, procedures and controls related to both the exploration and development of existing properties as well as identifying potential new projects.

Don Ewigleben, President and CEO of URI said, "Ted's extensive technical and managerial experience will be a great addition to the team as we advance our Los Finados project in Texas and prioritize opportunities within our 183,000 acres using the 19,000 drill logs we own in New Mexico. He will be instrumental in guiding our exploratory, definition and development drilling activities and more importantly, will be a strong contributor as we continue to evaluate opportunities to grow our asset base in New Mexico."

A Certified Professional Geologist, Wilton has a comprehensive range of experience from greenfield to advanced stage mineral exploration and development programs in a variety of regions from

North America and Latin America to Australia and New Zealand.

He has participated in the discovery of a number of uranium and gold deposits over his career, which includes a variety of technical and leadership roles at Freeport McMoRan, Kinross Gold Corp., Neutron Energy Inc., Victoria Gold Corp. and, most recently, Klondex Mines Ltd.

Robert I. Pennington

(B.S. environmental engineering, 1979) Colorado-based mining company General Moly Inc. announced that Robert I. Pennington has been appointed Chief Operating Officer.

Pennington earned a bachelor's in environmental engineering from New Mexico Tech in 1979. He joined General Moly in October 2007 as Vice President of Engineering and Construction and has overseen Mt. Hope and Liberty permitting and development since that time.

Previously, Mr. Pennington served as Chief Operating Officer of M3 Engineering & Technology in Tucson, Ariz.

Pennington has 33 years of metal mine operations and project management experience, including 24 years in management of mine and plant operations.

He previously served as President at the Phelps Dodge Tyrone operations and General Manager at Phelps Dodge Morenci in Arizona. Pennington's project experience dates back to 1982 with the construction and startup of the Kennecott Chino concentrator, followed by design, construction, and startup of the Chino SXEW plant, the Phelps Dodge Candelaria operation in Chile, the Piedras Verdes SXEW operation in Mexico and various other projects while working in the role of project manager for M3. Pennington has extensive experience in base metal operations and design, and molybdenum processing.

1980's

Marylynn V. Yates

(M.S. chemistry; 1982) has been appointed the dean of the university's [College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences](#) at the University of California-Riverside.

Yates joined the faculty of UC Riverside in 1987. She has served as the chair of the Department of Environmental Sciences; associate executive vice chancellor; program leader for the University of California Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources; chair of the CNAS Executive Committee; co-chair of the Committee on Academic Personnel; associate co-director of the One Health Center, University of California Global Health Institute (UCGHI); and UCGHI's co-director of education.

"CNAS has outstanding faculty, dedicated staff, and excellent students," Yates said. "Over the coming months, we all will be working together

to redesign our college. Our goal is to better enable faculty to conduct cutting edge research, to foster interdisciplinary collaborations necessary to tackle the most difficult problems facing society, and to create an environment that will allow us to continue to attract the brightest students and the best new faculty."

Yates's research focuses on the transmission of human pathogenic microorganisms in environmental media, particularly water and wastewater. She serves on several advisory committees, panels and boards for water quality, including the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Science Advisory Board Drinking Water Committee and the National Research Council's Water Science & Technology Board. Currently, she serves as editor for *Applied & Environmental Microbiology*.

A fellow of the American Association for the

Advancement of Science (2007) and a fellow of the American Academy of Microbiology (2011), she is a recipient of UC-Riverside's Distinguished Teaching Award (2001-02) and was named Distinguished Teaching Professor (2006).

Yates received her doctoral degree in microbiology from the University of Arizona in 1984. She earned her master's degree in chemistry from New Mexico Tech and a bachelor's degree in nursing from the University of Wisconsin, Madison.

Ward Herst

(M.S. hydrology; 1986) won second place at the 25-hours of Thunderhill auto race held in Willows, Calif., on Dec. 3 and 4. The 25-hours of Thunderhill is the longest automobile race in America and draws racers and teams from around the world. Herst drove a 1999 Mazda Miata as part of a four-driver team. 83 cars took the green flag at this year's race, and Herst's team finished 2nd in the E3 class, racing

for Hooverspeed from Sacramento, Calif. Besides Herst, the team included drivers from Houston, Chicago and Reno, Nev. The team completed 625 laps at the 3-mile, 15-turn circuit – 1,875 miles – during the race, with each driver racing for a little more than six hours. In addition to being the longest auto race in America, the Thunderhill race is unique in that it has no track lights. Racing during the night is done using the cars' headlights to illuminate the track.

Since 1998, Herst has operated a consulting firm in St. Charles, Mo. Herst & Associates has 25 employees, specializing in environmental services, such as groundwater and soil evaluation, impact investigations, remediation and corrective measures, permitting and more.

Dr. Scott W. Tyler

(M.S. hydrology; 1983) was selected by the Foundation Professor Selection Committee at the University of Nevada-Reno as one of the 2012 Foundation Professors.

Tyler earned his bachelor's in mechanical engineering from the University of Connecticut in 1978. After earning his master's at Tech, he joined the Desert Research Institute in 1983 and earned his doctorate at Nevada-Reno in 1990. He joined the UNR faculty in 1992 and became a full professor in 2000. Tyler has dozens of publications and varied research interests in hydrology and hydrogeology.

1990's

Jeffrey Best

(B.S., mineral engineering) Katanga Mining Limited announced that Jeffrey Best, the company's Chief Operating Officer, has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer and Director of the company to succeed Mr. John Ross as Chief Executive Officer and Director. Ross resigned to pursue other opportunities which will allow him to spend more time with his family. Ross will remain available to assist in an orderly transition. Best earned his bachelor's in mineral engineering from

New Mexico Tech in 1996.

Ken Ford's *In Love with Flying*

To me, an especially rewarding flight was one in which I disappeared into the mist after takeoff and emerged from the mist an hour or two later to see a runway stretched out ahead of me a few hundred feet below. It was a bit like time travel. The world contracted, and when the world expanded, I was somewhere else." – Kenneth W. Ford

This quote, from Kenneth W. Ford's *In Love with Flying*, reflects the physical and empyrean planes of time and space, and the ability of the author to recognize and embrace the beauty of both.

In Love with Flying is a memoir, an ode to aerodynamic travel and the individuals Ford met and admired on his 50-year journey as a pilot of planes with engines – and planes without.

It is never mechanical, although other pilots will recognize the attention to detail Ford provides about the physical properties and propensities of the planes and gliders he flew over and across the continent.

Ford the writer seems very much like Ford the pilot – we are borne aloft, caught up in the cosmos of air drafts and rates of climb and descent, even as he narrates his first flight in 1952 in a Piper J-3, to post-pilot activities: Still teaching, still choosing his words with care, still listening, still curious about the lay of the land.

New Mexicans, by birth or choice, will cheer from the very first words of the book

where Ford gives us, literally, the lay of the land and an admission. It was here, in the desert landscape and temperate climate of the Southwest, where Ford "got hooked on flying."

It likely would have happened anywhere, but on that fateful day in 1953, Ford just happened to be a post-doctoral researcher at the atomic lab in Los Alamos when it hit him: "... something clicked in my brain. I needed to fly."

And fly he did, trading in

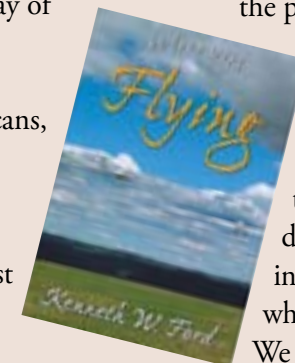
a lovely new Plymouth for an old Chevrolet and taking off in search of a plane to buy, which turned out to be a two-seater Ercoupe with enough money left over for flying lessons.

For me, the best parts of the book are the vignettes scattered across the chapters of the people who influenced the pilot Ford became.

New Mexico Tech alumni will be particularly delighted to find several chapters devoted to his seven years in Socorro and the people who populated them:

We meet Bill Bullock, Ray Smith, Jerry Hoogerwerf, all pilots supreme; and we travel the friendly skies between Socorro and Santa Fe and Hobbs. We even fly into Mexico, and are stopped by agents at a Texas airport; we ferry passengers – human, canine and cadaver – across the country – adventures all and all well told.

But don't just take my word for it: *This is a delightfully original book, and if Ford flew as well as he writes, he was also an excellent stick and rudder man.*



in memoriam

Anthony “Tony” K. Cafarelli passed away June 5, 2011, at 84 years old. Tony was born October 11, 1926, in Trinidad, Colo., as the only son to Antonio and Louise Cafarelli.

Tony’s father died when Tony was just six months old and his mother remarried to Tony’s beloved step-father Fred Catenacci. Tony spent many of his early years in Raton, N.M. At the age of 17 Tony enlisted in the United States Navy and later graduated from the New Mexico School of Mines.

During his school tenure, he practiced his craft around the world, from Superior, Ariz., to Mexico City, and Nicaragua.

Following this, he enjoyed a wonderful career at Reynolds Metals, which later became Alcoa. Tony was a 3rd and 4th Degree Knight of Columbus for several years and was also a member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks for over 50 years. He and his wife are also

members of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church in Tempe, Ariz. Tony is survived by his wife of 55 years, Margaret; his four children: Loretta Pacheco, and Damien, Randy, and Margaret Cafarelli. Tony was also blessed with three grandchildren: Rosalie White, Patti Schoenhardt, and John Randolph, and six great-grandchildren: Devin, Kerstyn, Noah, Preston, Hailey, and McKenzie. Tony was a well loved man and will be greatly missed.

Atlee Dean Beckerdite (B.S. geology, 1950) Atlee Beckerdite died December 28, 2011, in Houston.

Beckerdite was born January 9, 1926, in Larned, Kan. He was in the U.S. Army Air Force from January 1944 until May 1946 where he was a B-17 Tail Gunner with the 306th Bomb Group, 423rd Bomb Squadron stationed at Thurleigh, England; Istress, France and Weisbaden, Germany. He flew 18 combat missions and reached the rank of T/Sgt.

Mr. Beckerdite married the former Arlene Ellyson in August 1946 and they raised two children, Beverly Dell Dracos of Houston, Texas and Jay Lee Beckerdite, who passed away in 1988. He attended the Colorado School of Mines, before transferring to New Mexico Tech. He graduated from Tech in 1950 with a B.S. Degree in Geology.

His career in natural resource economics and management is well known throughout the industry. He and Arlene pursued a career path that took them to Bismarck, N.D.; Borger, Texas; St. Albans, W.V.; Denver; Glenview, Ill.; Menlo Park, Calif.; Houston; San Antonio, Texas; and Clearwater, Fla. Dean’s work also included assignments in Europe, Australia, Africa and South America. Prior to 1979 Dean worked for several companies including Stanford Research, where he was Director of Mining, Minerals and Materials Economics; and Tesoro Petroleum, where he was a Vice President and President of their mineral producing subsidiaries.

In 1979 Dean and Arlene formed their own mine management consulting company, ADB Inc., which they operated and managed until his retirement in 1997. Their clients included “Big Eight” accounting firms, major utilities, investment bankers and other less specialized management consulting firms.

He was the author of numerous published articles and professional papers related to mineral resources economics and management. Dean was a member of the AIME and VFW. He is survived by his loving wife, Arlene Beckerdite; daughter Beverly Dracos and husband Steve; granddaughter Ellen Lesch; grandsons Thomas Dracos and wife Jennifer and Marcus Dracos and wife Melissa; sister Arlene Waite; and four great-grandchildren. Funeral services were at 2 p.m. Friday, Jan. 6, 2012, in the chapel of Klein Funeral Home in Houston. For those wishing, donations could be made to the Parkinson’s Foundation.

Jack H. Hunt (B.S. mine engineering, 1950) Jack Hunt passed away in Albuquerque on Nov. 9, 2011.

Jack graduated from Grants High School (N.M.) in 1943 and entered the U.S. Air Force. Upon discharge in 1946, he enrolled at New Mexico Tech. After graduation, he moved with his family to Carlsbad, N.M., where he enjoyed a lifelong career in the potash mining industry.

Harlan N. “Dusty” Rhodes (B.S. petroleum, 1953) passed away peacefully at home on October 11, 2011, after a life well lived. He was 85, and a well known Denver oil man who was a wonderful father, husband and grandfather, and a mentor, role-model and friend to many. He will be greatly missed.

Dusty was born in Wayne, Neb., on April 26, 1926, to Emma Johanna Schroeder and Harley Nicholas Rhodes. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps during World War II and the Korean War.

Rhodes earned a bachelor’s of science in Petroleum Engineering at the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology. He was a Registered Professional Engineer and Land Surveyor in various Rocky Mountain states. He was also a commercial pilot, a restorer of antique aircraft, an aviation historian and an aircraft appraiser.

In what he always claimed was the best decision of his life, he married Betty Lou Etz in Sweetwater, Texas, on June 1, 1951. She preceded him in death after more than 50 happy and adventurous years of marriage. They are survived by three children: a son, William F. Rhodes and wife, Tracy, of Prescott, Ariz.; a daughter, Kristen E. Rhodes-Anderson and husband, Stephen, of Longmont, Colo., and a daughter, Patricia L. Rhodes-Vasil and husband, George, of Lake Stevens, Wash. Dusty and Betty were blessed with seven grandchildren.

Rhodes worked for more than 50 years in the oil

and gas industry. He served as chief operating officer and/or director for a number of Denver-based independent oil and gas companies. At the time of his death, he operated H.N. Rhodes, P.E., L.L.C., owner of oil and gas interests throughout the Rocky Mountain and Mid-Continent producing provinces. During his professional career he belonged to many professional and industry organizations and was an officer and/or director of most. At his death, he was a member of the Antique Airplane Association, the Experimental Aircraft Association, the Wings Over the Rockies Air and Space Museum, and the Rocky Mountain Petroleum Pioneers.

A celebration of his abundant life was Monday, Oct. 17, 2011, at The Lodge at Balfour, in Louisville, Colo. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that you perform an act of kindness or charity to honor his memory. Please share thoughts, memories, and condolences with

Dusty’s family at www.cristmortuary.com.

Duane H. Williams (B.S. Physics in 1956 and M.S. in Earth Science in 1958) Duane H. Williams, 77, passed away at his home in Capitan, N.M., on Tuesday, December 6, 2011. Born in Magdalena, N.M., on June 24, 1934, he grew up in Socorro. He earned degrees from New Mexico Tech: a bachelor’s in Physics in 1956 and a master’s in Earth Science in 1958.

He and his wife, Nadine (Stendel) Williams, moved to China Lake, Calif. Following a 31-year career in research management at the China Lake Naval Ordnance Test Station (currently China Lake, Naval Air Weapons Station), he retired from federal civil service in 1989.

In 1990, he returned to his native New Mexico, adopting Lincoln County as his new home. Williams was an athlete and outdoor enthusiast, and following his retirement to New Mexico, he became a

dedicated participant in state and community affairs in active support of smaller, efficient, and open government.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Daniel Berne Williams and Verna Marie (Overton) Williams. He is survived by his wife, Nadine Williams, of Capitan, N.M.; daughter Karyl Williams with son-in-law Craig Westbrook of Capitan; and son Marc Williams with daughter-in-law Danialle (Rodgers) Williams and stepson Dylan Meyers, of Ridgecrest, Calif.

Lawrence Ira Cordray
(B.S. environmental engineering)

May 28, 1943 – February 7, 2012
Lawrence Cordray died Tuesday, February 7, 2012, in Grand Junction, Colo. Born in Colorado Springs on May 28, 1943, he spent his growing up years in Colorado primarily in the Somerset, Paonia, and Grandby areas. He married Linda Moschner in Glenwood Springs in 1970.

After moving to Socorro, N.M., Lawrence attended the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology and graduated with a bachelor's in Environmental Engineering. He worked in the copper mining industry in Silver City, N.M., where he and Linda lived and raised their family. They moved to Colorado Springs in 1991 and then to Palisade in 1996.

Lawrence liked rock hunting, reading, and playing the cash five lottery. He is survived by Linda; daughter, Anne and Merlin Namuth of Broomfield, Colo.; son, Lt. Benjamin and Jennifer Cordray of Charleston, S.C.; sister, Ruby Springsteel and husband, Jim, of Rock Springs, Wyo.; sister, Louise Humphrey of Colorado Springs, and sister, Rita Taylor and husband, Terry, of Grand Junction. He is also survived by five grandchildren, Gabrielle Namuth, and Margaret, Rebekah, Emma, and Samuel Cordray. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to Mesa Funeral Service.

Joseph William Keeney, (PhD in geosciences, 1968) 77, passed away Monday, Jan. 17, 2011, in Alamogordo. He was born Dec. 19, 1933, in Arkansas City, Kan., to William Hogan and Hellen Rosetta (Ronsick) Keeney.

Joe graduated from the University of Oklahoma in 1956 and earned a doctorate in geosciences from the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology in 1968. His professional career included atmospheric physics, exploration geophysics and computer science from 1960 until his death. He did research in geophysics, wrote numerous scientific papers and had some patents. He lived in Alamogordo since 1988. Joe enjoyed backpacking and hiking in the New Mexico mountains and exploring the old railroad trails.

Joe is survived by his wife of 52 years, Carlyne Rae Gerle, whom he married June 22, 1958, in North Platte, Neb. He is also survived by his children: Kevin D. Keeney and

his wife, Heidi, of Cedar Park, Texas; Karen K. Normandin and her husband Douglas, of Garland, Texas; David V.M. Keeney and his wife, Tetyana Litvinenko, of El Paso; and Dr. Susan G. Keeney and her husband, Tony McKee, of Las Vegas, Nev.; grandchildren Matthew and Amber Normandin, of Garland; and half-sister Ruth Williams. He was preceded in death by his father, mother and step-father.

Lt. Gen. Leo Marquez
(Jan. 27, 1932-Dec. 3, 2011)

(U.S. Air Force, Ret.) died peacefully surrounded by his family on Friday, December 30, 2011. Marquez was a member of the New Mexico Tech Board of Regents from 1989 to 1994.

He is survived by his wife, the former Stella Alvarez of Las Cruces, N.M., and their children: Diana Marquez, David Marquez, Paula Hewitt and her daughter Alisa; Patricia and Allan Knighten and their daughter Adrienne; Phil and

Susan Marquez and their children Marisa, Brittanee Brown and Michael Birner; siblings Ruben and Pedie Marquez, Jim and Helen Marquez, Mary Ann Greiner and sister-in-law Esther Marquez; and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his parents Santiago and Emma Marquez, his brother Ben Marquez and sister, Carmen Baca.

He was born on January 27, 1932, in Peralta, N.M., and grew up in the farming village of Tome, N.M. Leo graduated from New Mexico State University's Air Force ROTC program with a Bachelor of Science degree in zoology. He also earned a Master of Science degree in business administration from George Washington University. He was a distinguished graduate of the Air Command and Staff College and the National Defense College and received a Master of Business Administration degree from the Advanced Management Program for Executives at the Carnegie

Mellon University. He was named a distinguished alumnus and received an Honorary Doctor of Letters from his alma mater, New Mexico State University.

He proudly served his country for 33 years as a U.S. Air Force officer before retiring as a Lieutenant General. His many decorations include the Distinguished Service Medal, the Legion of Merit with one oak leaf cluster, Bronze Star with V for valor for combat in Vietnam, Meritorious Service medal and Air Force Commendation medal with one oak leaf cluster. His last assignment was as Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics and Engineering, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Pentagon. He was a pilot with over 2,000 hours in single engine jet fighters. His many noteworthy achievements include the approval and implementation of the Air Force Combat Ammunitions Center known as "Ammo U" and the maintenance badge that all Air Force maintainers

now wear so proudly just above the heart.

The Lt. Gen. Leo Marquez Award of Maintenance Excellence was named and is earned by civilian and military Air Force maintenance personnel in recognition of superior service. Since retirement from the Air Force, he was an executive in several engineering and aerospace companies and served the state of New Mexico on the Kirtland Partnership Committee, New Mexico Military Base Planning Commission and as a regent of both New Mexico Tech and the New Mexico Museum Board.

William Elbert Hemenway
(Dec. 18, 1927-March 8, 2012) of Socorro, N.M., passed away March 8, 2012, after a long illness.

Bill was born in Groversville, N.Y., on December 18, 1927. He was the son of Emma Disbrow and Frank Hemenway, brother of Richard (his twin), Mary Lou and Wesley. After graduation from Groversville High School,

he enlisted in the U.S. Navy and served on board the U.S.S. Corry, a destroyer, as a Machinist Mate Third Class. Bill remained an active member of the U.S.S. Corry Association until his passing.

In 1950, he met and married Barbara Turner of Fort Edward, N.Y., and moved to the Albany, N.Y., area where he graduated from Albany Business College and attended State University of New York-Oswego. During this time he commenced a lifetime career in higher education and ultimately served as the administrative assistant in the Department of Atmospheric Sciences at SUNY-Albany. At this time Bill decided to move to Socorro and join the staff at New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology (New Mexico Tech) where he progressed from Business Manager to Associate Vice President for Administration and Finance. During his time at Tech, he oversaw many new construction projects as the school expanded and



Lynne and Bill Hemenway

matured. These projects included the new library and the dam that bears his name. In 1986, Barbara his wife of 35 years passed away, yet he continued to serve Tech and the Socorro community with the same dedication and talent.

In 1992 he met and married Lynne McNeil of Socorro. She brought new life, new joy and new energy into his life. With her support and partnership, he continued and expanded his already active civic and social life in Socorro. They immediately became an inseparable team. Bill always had a ready smile and a keen desire to

serve. He became a key member of the Socorro City Council, serving on the budget committee and ultimately its chairman. He also served on the Board of Directors of the Socorro Chamber of Commerce, the Socorro General Hospital Board, serving some time as its chairman, and the Lions Club. He also had an active five-day-a-week coffee club and the Friday night "Bills' Club" at El Sombrero. Almost everyone in Socorro knew Bill Hemenway. If some didn't know him, it's a good bet their lives were touched in some way by his years of service to Socorro and New Mexico Tech. In his spare time he

pursued photography, golf and swimming.

Bill is survived by his wife Lynne, his brother Wesley

Almost everyone in Socorro knew Bill Hemenway. If some didn't know him, it's a good bet their lives were touched in some way by his years of service to Socorro and New Mexico Tech.

of Paso Robles, Calif., his son Mark of Lowell, Mass., his daughter Jo Anne Morris of Lebanon, Tenn., and granddaughters Constance and Brenda. Other survivors include Bill and Myrna McNeil of Las Cruces, N.M., Todd McNeil of La Joya, N.M., Jami and George Navarro of Las Cruces; grandchildren Mary Jane,

Alisha, James and John Thomas McNeil; and five great-grandchildren Jacob, Angelica, Sean, Madison and Kadeyn, all of whom

knew him as their loving "Grampa."

Memorial Services were at 10 a.m. Monday, March 12, 2012 at Macey Center on the New Mexico Tech campus with Rev. Jeff Finch and Rev. Laura Finch officiating. To view information or leave a condolence, please visit www.danielsfuneral.com.

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the last word

eric peterson

Physics Major Peterson Thrives at New Mexico Tech

By Valerie Kimble

Eric Peterson found more than a good education at New Mexico Tech.

He found himself.

The small science and engineering research university was just the right fit for Peterson, a 22-year-old physics major who grew up in Naperville, Illinois, a city just west of Chicago and home to corporate offices and technical companies.

Peterson discovered New Mexico by way of the Philmont Boy Scout Ranch in the Jemez Mountains, where he once backpacked 60 miles into the piney wilderness.



Eric Peterson with advisor Ken Minschwaner

"I became enchanted with New Mexico," Peterson said; and so when it came time to look for a small college where he could get a good, solid education, he looked no further than New Mexico Tech.

He already was familiar with the campus and curriculum from having taken a six-week summer mini-course in chemical engineering; in fact, New Mexico Tech was the only school to which Peterson applied for admission.

After graduating from high school in 2007, Peterson continued his study of chemistry at Tech, but quickly switched to physics.

More specifically, he discovered a strong interest in astronomy and weather in settling down to study

atmospheric physics. After graduation this May, he'll be going on to graduate school.

Ideally, Peterson would like to take the summer off and visit Japan, a country he is absolutely fascinated with – a discovery he made while attending Tech.

"I started studying Japanese about a year ago – I wanted to further develop myself as a person," he explained. "The language is what really drew my interest, and I study it when I have time – but, as a Tech student, finding the time is really difficult."

He has taken up jogging as part of his personal development, cognizant of the link between a healthy mind and body, and is running about two miles a day.

Peterson also has a girlfriend, a chemical engineering major he met through mutual friends, and works as a grader for the Physics Department. His advisor is Dr. Ken Minschwaner, and he is quick to sing the praises of department secretary Gina Chavez. "If you need to talk to someone, Gina's always there," Peterson said. "And she always has candy."

What does he like best about Tech? "The atmosphere," Peterson said. "You can talk to anyone about just about anything – Tech has a very open academic atmosphere."

He plans to pursue a master's degree in atmospheric physics, but is hesitant to project too far into the future.

"The future seems very uncertain," said Peterson, whose college career has unfolded under the umbrella of an economic recession and high unemployment rates.

Nonetheless, he is certain that whatever he is doing 10 years down the road, he will be using the skills and education he acquired as a student at New Mexico Tech.

"I've gotten a good education, and Tech has been a good place to get that education," Peterson said.

"I didn't realize how much I'd changed, how I'd grown and developed as a person," he added. "Tech is a good place to do that, too. It's a good fit for me."



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