



Horizons

Expanding Horizons in Science, Mathematics, Engineering and Technology
Sponsored by the National Science Foundation

The Omega and the Alpha, Part I

“The time has come,” the walrus said, “to speak of many things: of shoes — and ships — and sealing-wax — of cabbages — and kings...” With apologies to Lewis Carroll, it is also time for us to speak of many things. As the end of our Phase I funding approaches, it seems appropriate to look back on the events and activities that have contributed to and built the current program.

Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) has been an AMP partner since the beginning, offering the first internships to AMP students. The plan was, and remains, three-tiered: two-year community college students do a summer internship at a four-year university campus, followed by an internship at LANL, and then an internship in an industrial setting facilitated by the New Mexico AMP/LANL collaboration. From this, the current URA program developed. Now, continued support from LANL, internships in the State Engineer Office, collaboration with the NMSU College of Engineering, and the new AMP Industry Internship Listserv will help students locate summer internships with local and national industries. Through these efforts we will be able to expand opportunities across the state for our students, demonstrate institutionalization, and build the program as a whole.

SMET 101 began as part of the distance learning component in the original AMP proposal. “**SMET 101 - Introduction to Science Math, Engineering and Technology**,” now reaches NMSU plus five community college sites. A hybrid of the best in traditional classroom teaching and new technology, SMET 101 incorporates proven recruitment and retention methods, interesting and relevant coursework, collaborative learning and student development. A major component is the Academic Achievement Plan, the foundation of the New Mexico AMP transfer model SMET 101 is designed

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From the Director

Thank you! Sometimes we forget to say it, or we don't say it often enough, but as I read the cover article and was reminded of all that New Mexico AMP has accomplished in its short five-year history, I again realized that without



*Ricardo B. Jacquez, Director,
New Mexico AMP*

the people—faculty, students, staff, Institutional Coordinators, administrative staff, NSF, even other AMPs—the list of what was accomplished would be far shorter. In addition, funds from the New Mexico State Legislature have allowed us to leverage over \$12M in additional grants, gifts, and other contributions. Figures comparing full-time enrollments at the two- and four-year schools from Fall 1993 to Fall 1996, (the most recent data available), shows a total enrollment increase of almost 60%. This year alone, we impacted over 3,700 students, Level I and II, at the two-year and four-year schools. This happens because of dedicated, caring professionals working together.

This issue is filled with the *People, Places, and Things* that have been happening throughout New Mexico AMP. Be sure to read about Allison Silva's and Eduardo Galvan's trip to Washington D.C. on pages 8 and 9. And, I especially want to call your attention to *AMP At A Glance* on page 7. You may find this graphic to be very useful in presenting the New Mexico AMP program to students and other groups. Please use it freely, or, contact Karen, our Public Information Coordinator, if you have questions.

Again, AMP works because of you. Thank you for a job well done.

Ricardo B. Jacquez

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to facilitate. SMET 101 articulates as Engineering 101. In Spring, 1999, a new section of Engineering 101 at NMSU will be offered incorporating the SMET 101 model. With a permanent place on the NMSU course schedule, presentations at the 1997 *Minority Student Today Conference*, and the *Third National Students in Transition Conference*, plus requests for information on replicating the model, SMET 101 plays a key role in the institutionalization of the AMP program in New Mexico and elsewhere.

Student conferences have been part of the New Mexico AMP program since its beginning. Drawing on lessons learned and experience gained, New Mexico AMP proudly served as host site for the 5th Annual National Science Foundation Alliances for Minority Participation Research Conference. Key speakers included Dr. Luther S. Williams, Asst. Dir., NSF; Dr. Richard Tapia, Hispanic Engineer of the Year; Adriana Ocampo, Science Coordinator, Jet Propulsion Laboratory, and NASA astronaut Ellen Ochoa. This conference gave New Mexico students the chance to network with other student researchers, validate their own work and goals, and see opportunities for

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People, Places, and Things

The summer bridge program at **The University of New Mexico-Los Alamos Campus** has reason to be proud. According to advisor **Carole Greigo Rutten**, a yearly follow-up on last summer's program showed 23 students participated in and completed the two summer bridge programs held simultaneously at UNM-LA. Of those 23, 20 are now receiving some form of higher education. Of the other three, one student could not be reached, one was currently not attending school or working, and one attended one semester at a four-year institution before enlisting in the Marines.

In conjunction with other UNM-LA transitional offerings, the summer bridge program was designed specifically to facilitate the ease of movement for minority students interested in underrepresented areas such as, science, computers, engineering, and/or technology. Minority programs at UNM-LA have been offered the last four years. The bridge program includes credit offerings, career/study skills workshops, and tutorial support. Students who participated in the 1997 summer bridge were asked not only to attend activities, but to utilize critical thinking skills to analyze the various program activities, evaluating their usefulness and making recommendations for continuation.



University of New Mexico-Los Alamos Campus 1997 Summer Bridge Participants

New Mexico AMP, in partnership with the Regional Alliance for Science, Engineering and Math (RASEM) for Students with Disabilities, has requested support from the New Mexico State Legislature under the title "Alliances for Underrepresented Students." A decision on this request is expected soon. We wish to thank State **Rep. Richard Knowles**, **Rep. J. Paul Taylor**, and **Senator Cynthia Nava** for their extra efforts on our behalf, as well as New Mexico State University who has included New Mexico AMP as a line item in its budget.

Congratulations are in order to: **Albuquerque TVI, ENMU, ENMU-Roswell, NMHU, NMIMT, NMSU, NMSU-Alamogordo, SFCC, UNM, and WNMU** listed in The Hispanic Outlook in Higher Education as part of the 1997 Publisher's Picks "Hot List." The list feature colleges and universities nationwide offering solid opportunities to Hispanic students. The list is based on a survey of school presidents and a review of literature and catalogs by and about those institutions. The results are fine-tuned through survey responses and feedback from students, parents, professors, counselors, and education advocates.

(from: Hispanic Outlook in Higher Education, Vol. 8, No.7, Nov. 28, 1997, p. 8, 12.

People, Places, and Things

New Mexico AMP students at **New Mexico Junior College** take grades seriously. It's the top agenda item at each monthly meeting for the group of 30 students. To continue receiving scholarships worth up to \$1,000 a year, the AMP students must maintain at least a 2.5 cumulative GPA. The group provides encouragement and tutors from the campus Career and Learning Center, and form Study Buddy Clubs to help those who aren't doing well academically.

Group president **Jake Jiron** of Tatum says "You have to be dedicated. It's not just showing up for meetings. It takes a lot of responsibility, self-discipline, sticking with goals. It's not easy." **Lydia Rodriquez** of Sanderson, Texas, considers it an honor to be a member of the group, citing the responsibility of maintaining good grades while at the same time enjoying the fellowship and support of peers. For her, membership sends a message. "We can succeed as well as anyone else can," she said. At NMJC, the AMP program has grown from 14 students in 1994 to 31 students currently.

AMP Coordinator **Robert Turner** said when the students have completed their degrees at NMJC they are encouraged to transfer to one of the major universities in New Mexico. From NMJC three students

recently transferred to NMSU and UNM with scholarships totaling \$3,000 per student.

(story by Glen Gummess, Audio/Visual Coordinator/NMJC. Reprinted courtesy of Mr. Gummess, and Hobbs News-Sun, Nov. 9, 1997 issue)

A total of twenty students representing **NMSU, UNM, New Mexico Tech, and Santa Fe High School** spent Summer 1997 employed in the State Engineer offices located in Santa Fe, Albuquerque, and Las Cruces. The interns were introduced at the Student Intern Reception at the Office of the State Engineer in Santa Fe where Dr. Ricardo Jacquez, New Mexico AMP Project Director, joined Governor Gary Johnson, State Engineer Tom Turney, and

State Engineer Office Division Heads to welcome the students to the summer intern program. The university students were recruited through a joint effort by New Mexico AMP and the Waste-management Education & Research Consortium (WERC).

New Mexico AMP students **Leticia Cano, Raymond Hernández, and Paul Williams**, were among 60 students attending **NMSU-Doña Ana** included in the 1998 edition of "Who's Who in American Junior Colleges." The selection is based on academic achievement, service to the community, leadership in extracurricular activities, and potential for continued success.



1997 Summer interns for the State Engineer Office at their welcoming reception shown with New Mexico AMP Project Director, Dr. Ricardo Jacquez (back row, far left),

AMP student **Carolina Trevizo**, a senior at **New Mexico State University**, was in Capetown, South Africa the week of Sept. 8-10, 1997, to present the results of her microbial toxicity research at the International Association on Water Quality Specialized Conference on Chemical Process Industries and Environmental Management. She was accompanied by her faculty mentor, Dr. N. N. Khandan, and other graduate students from the Civil, Agricultural and Geological Engineering Department. This was a unique opportunity for international travel, professional development, and networking.

The University of Copenhagen in Denmark was the work site for **New Mexico Highlands University** AMP Institutional Coordinator **Dr. Dick Greene**, and student **Jennifer Montano** during October and November, 1997.

Sponsored by the National Institutes of Health, Greene and Montano carried out experiments which examined the distribution of cardiac output during conditions of low oxygen and exercise in humans. Greene also presented a seminar "A Physicists's View of Cardiovascular Dynamics" at the Copenhagen Muscle Research

Centre in January, 1998. Greene is a Professor in the Engineering Program at NMHU; Montano is a graduate student in Exercise Science at UNM.

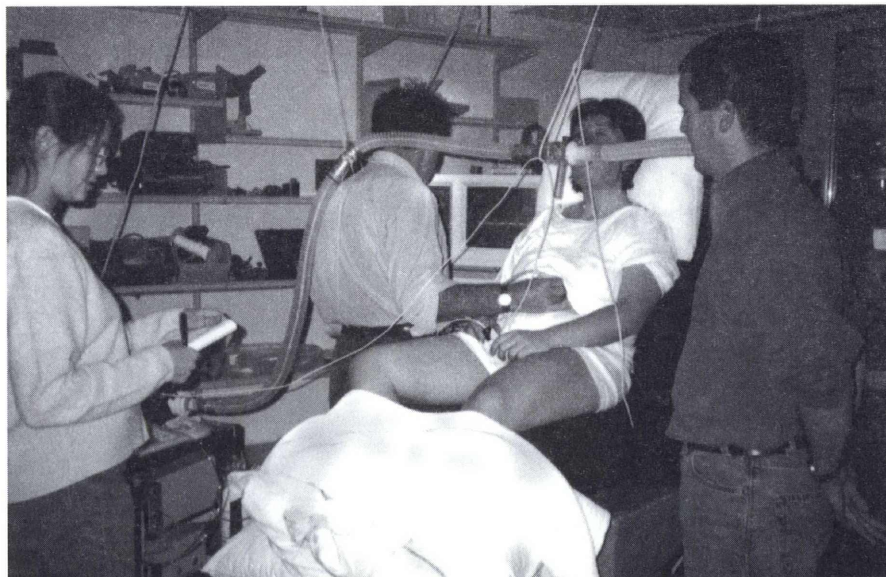
Diné College welcomed sixty children from grades 5-8 for a six week program called Summer SMET conducted at the Shiprock Campus. These future AMP students met four mornings per week and rotated among computer, math and science activities each morning. The program was funded by the National Science Foundation through the RASEM consortium, and was coordinated by Robin Sellen.

Diné was also the site of the Science Honors Program. For the sixth year, Shiprock Campus

brought a new cohort of entering freshmen into this program of scholarships and academic achievement. The students, after six weeks of team-building, mathematics and science instruction, travel to three different universities in New Mexico to present math proofs to faculty, staff and students at those institutions.

Students at **New Mexico Tech** are taking advantage of training and conference opportunities. **Jose Salazar** and **Aaron Saenz** attended the National Technology Career Conference '98 sponsored by the Society of Hispanic Professional

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Jennifer Montano (far left), and Dr. Dick Greene (2nd from left), conduct experiments in cardiac output at the University of Copenhagen in Denmark.

The Omega and the Alpha (cont) . . .

Continued from page 2

personal and professional growth. Those opportunities will continue as New Mexico AMP and the Waste-management Education & Research Consortium (WERC) collaborate to continue and expand the annual statewide student conference to be held this fall.

A \$100,000 supplemental grant from the National Science Foundation to support underrepresented minority students in the **Social and Behavioral Sciences** was used to fund Undergraduate Research Assistantships (URAs) for the academic year, and will be used for internships for Summer, 1998. These funds allowed the development of a series of extensive technical writing seminars to prepare students to write progress reports, proposals, and final reports for their research. These seminars strengthened the existing URA program as a whole for SBS and SMET students.

The **Teacher Preparation** supplemental funding received from NSF paved the way for using the New Mexico AMP model and infrastructure as the foundation and catalyst for the **New Mexico Collaborative for Excellence in Teacher Preparation (CETP)** program, funded by NSF at \$5,000,000 for five years. In partnership with New Mexico AMP, CETP's goal is the improvement of science, mathematics, and technology prepara-

tion of future K-12 teachers and their effectiveness as educators in these areas. These teachers will be role models for the minority youth of New Mexico, guiding and preparing them for SMET disciplines, and adding to NSF's goal of increasing the number of underrepresented minorities graduating in the SMET fields.

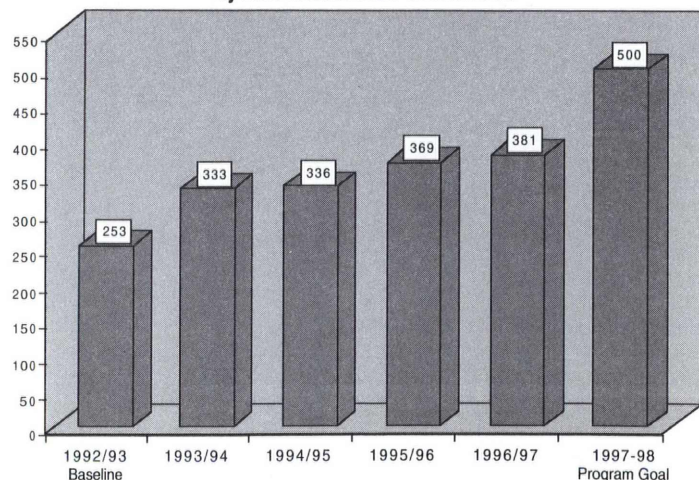
Among the funds now available to New Mexico AMP students are appropriations from the **New Mexico State Legislature**. In partnership with the Regional Alliance for Science, Engineering and Mathematics (RASEM) for Students with Disabilities, New Mexico AMP is now a line item in the NMSU budget. For three years the two programs have requested state funds under the title "Alliances for Underrepresented Students." The demonstrated legislative support, and the individual efforts by several

of the state's legislators, help insure both program's continued effectiveness and institutionalization.

Last, but certainly not least, is determining if our goals have been met. For New Mexico AMP, the goal was to increase the number of underrepresented minorities **graduating in the SMET fields**. The graph below shows the steady progress New Mexico AMP has made during Phase I. There has been an impact: New Mexico AMP *has* made a difference. With rising enrollment there is reason to believe that trend will continue.

So, where do we go from here? A Phase II funding proposal has been submitted to NSF for review, and we have every confidence that we will be able to continue the work we've begun. In the meantime, the next page, **AMP At A Glance**, tells the story of what we do, and how we do it.

Total SMET B.S. Degrees Awarded to Minorities by New Mexico AMP Institutions



Data Source: New Mexico Commission on Higher Education
1996/97 Data is currently being certified by CHE

AMP At a Glance

NEW MEXICO AMP OFFERS STUDENTS.

- **Scholarships**
 - NM MESA, Inc.
 - Transfer
 - Book
- **Community Service Program**
 - 8-10 hours service
 - Professional Development Seminars
- **URA Program**
 - Faculty-mentored research
 - Seminars
 - *Advanced Technical & Professional Communication* course
 - Conference presentation
- **SMET 101** (distance learning)
 - Offered at 2- & 4-year campuses
 - Academic development & career planning
 - Articulates as *Engineering 101* equivalent
- **Conferences**
 - New Mexico AMP Conference
 - NSF Research Conference
 - SMET Professional Conferences
 - Presentation development support
- **Tutoring**
 - Workshops
 - "Gatekeeper" courses
 - Peer tutoring
- **Bridge Programs**
 - Transitional
 - Academic
 - Summer research
 - Industry internships
- **Mentoring**
 - SMET 101
 - Community Service Program
 - URA Program

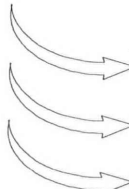


IN COLLABORATION WITH . . .

National Science Foundation
New Mexico's 27 Public Colleges & Universities
National Laboratories
Waste-management Education & Research Consortium (WERC)
Collaborative for Excellence in Teacher Preparation (CETP)
Regional Alliance for Science, Engineering & Math (RASEM) for Students with Disabilities
New Mexico State Legislature
New Mexico Commission on Higher Education
New Mexico MESA, Inc.
Industry



TO GRADUATE A DIVERSE WORKFORCE PREPARED FOR . . .

- 
- Industry
 - Graduate School
 - Entrepreneurship

NMSU Students Present Astronomy Research Results

How many computer science and engineering students find themselves presenting astronomy research results to a national gathering of professional astronomers? A group of New Mexico State University students - participants in a program designed to bring more minority students into scientific fields - did just that when the American Astronomical Society met in Washington, D.C., Jan. 6-11, 1998. Their topic: eclipsing binary star systems. The students have been gathering, processing and analyzing data on pairs of stars that orbit each other - measuring their brightness and color as one eclipses the other to determine the temperatures of the stars.

Their research contributes to a better understanding of binary stars, says their faculty mentor, NMSU astronomer Bernie McNamara, but it also teaches the students about scientific methods and gives them skills they can use in a variety of careers. "The purpose of this program is not to train astronomers," McNamara says. "We try to give them skills they can use beyond astronomy - gathering and analyzing data, digital image processing, publishing research results. These are skills we don't generally teach our undergraduates in a real working environment."

Participating in the research project are four undergraduate

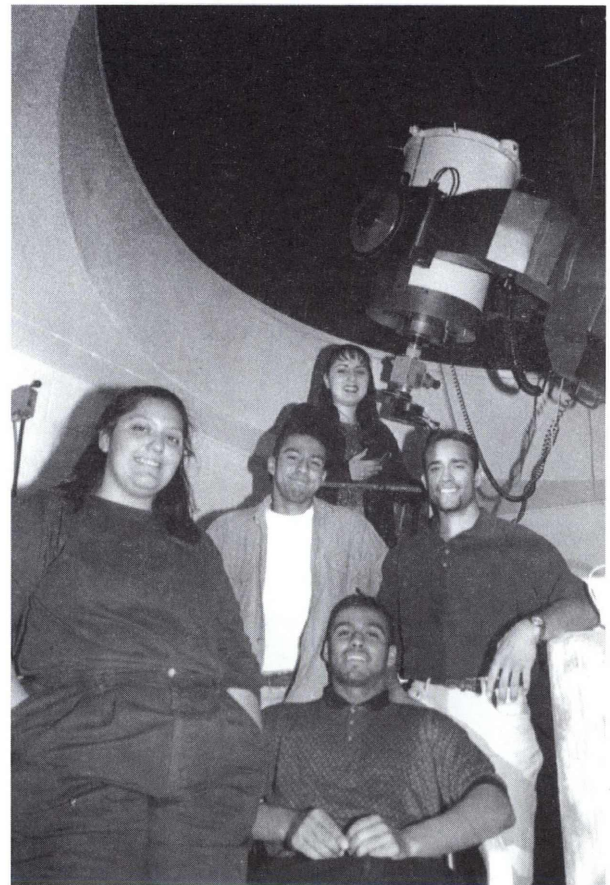
students and two graduate students, from a variety of non-astronomy fields: Allison Silva, a sophomore majoring in computer science; Tom Jarvis, a junior majoring in mechanical engineering; Eduardo Galvan, a sophomore majoring in computer science and electrical engineering; and Eduardo's brother, Javier Galvan, a junior majoring in engineering technology. Diana Olivares, a graduate student in mathematics, and Mary French, a graduate student in English, also are involved in the binary star research.

The quality and importance of the students' research is reflected not only in the fact that their results were presented at the AAS meeting in Washington. Two of the students, **Eduardo Galvan** and **Allison Silva**,* have had a paper accepted for publication in the June 1998 issue of The Astrophysical Journal.

(story by Karl Hill, University Communications, NMSU. Reprinted with permission.)

(editor's note: see related story, p. 9)

At the telescope they use to study binary star systems are (clockwise from top) Allison Silva, Tom Jarvis, Eduardo Galvan (seated), Diana Olivares, and Javier Galvan. Not pictured is research participant Mary French. (NMSU photo by Michael Kiernan).



Reaching for the Stars.

New Mexico AMP students **Eduardo Galvan** and **Allison Silva** have been reaching for the stars since high school. Project Upward Bound and a summer bridge program brought them to Professor Bernie McNamara's astronomy lab almost three years ago. Eduardo, a junior with a double major in computer science and electrical engineering, and Allison, a sophomore majoring in computer science, listed their reasons for staying with McNamara for so long: "He's teaching us a lot. The emphasis is on school first. We get exposure to research skills, we learn how to analyze a problem, and, we're learning how to communicate as scientists. He's our teacher and our mentor—guiding us through our research and experiences," said Allison.

This communication skill put them in a unique position at the American Astronomical Society conference. Designed for professional astronomers to present their research prior to publication, it is rare that undergraduate students present. Eduardo noted with pride that questions from the audience focused on their research, and not on their age.

Thanks to financial help from Dr. Juan Franco, Vice President for Administration, the Astronomy Department, the NASA Space Grant Consortium,

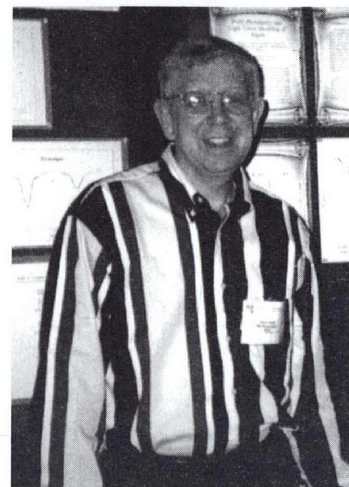
and New Mexico AMP, the two were able to make their first trip to Washington, D.C., and they took advantage of every opportunity. Approached before Christmas by a high school teacher from Baltimore, they agreed to speak to her two physics classes. The presentations were informal, and while one class was interested in the college experience itself, the Advanced Placement Class asked about their research. Allison said it was "really cool to be asked (for) our advice; it felt good."

They delivered a framed poster to Dr. Luther Williams at the National Science Foundation, too. Eduardo said they were well-received, and, although Dr. Williams was not available, Drs. Calbert and Hicks asked about their project and their plans. Both students said they appreciated the AMP program, especially the Undergraduate Research Assistantship funding their research this year.

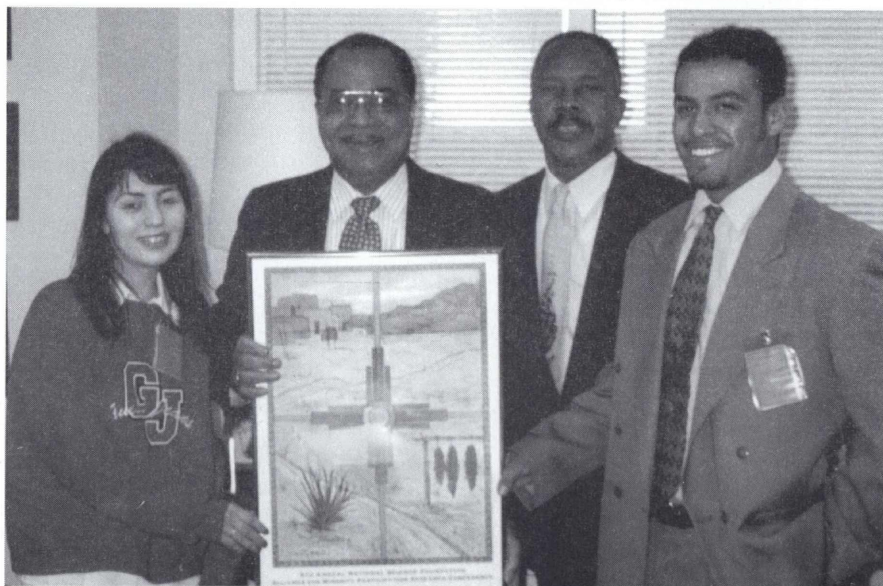
And they had fun. The whole experience? "Amazing,"

said Allison. They even got a tour of the Smithsonian's space museum from Dr. McNamara with special attention to the lunar module and his own research and writing on it.

And the future? First comes publication of their research in the June 1998 issue of *The Astrophysical Journal*. Then, both plan on continuing their research; both plan on graduate school (both mentioned Stanford). And when asked to offer some advice to other students, they both said "Don't give up, even if it's hard."



Astronomy professor and mentor, Bernie McNamara



Allison, Dr. Roosevelt Calbert, Dr. A. James Hicks, (recently appointed NSF/AMP Program Manager) and Eduardo at the NSF office.

People, Places, and Things (cont) . . .

Continued from page 5

Engineers (SHPE) in Orlando, Florida, where they participated in workshops that included ways to transition into internships; and how to give great presentations.

Allena Muskett will attend the AISES Leadership Conference in Colorado Springs in March. This conference is designed to develop traditional and contemporary leadership qualities in college level, Native American students through workshops, plenary sessions, ceremonies and storytelling by the AISES Council of Elders.

Cassandra Salinas, Lee Ann Montoya and **Khanh Ngo** have been nominated to attend the National Council of Hispanic Employment Program Managers job fair in San Diego in May. Students nominated must be ready to graduate by August 1998, have a 3.45/4.00 GPA or better, or be within the top 10 percent of their class to receive priority consideration.

Lee Ann Montoya took part in the Student Career Experience Program sponsored by the U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management. This work and study program gave her the opportunity to combine academic and career goals, made her eligible for federal employment upon graduation, provided tuition

assistance and exposed her to nationwide opportunities in her field. The goal of the program is to create a pipeline of talented and motivated students and ensure a highly qualified professional workforce for the future.

Close to 20 students from NMSU attended the SHPE National Technical Career Conference '98 in Orlando, Florida in early February. The conference gave them the opportunity to attend workshops, and network with other students and with representatives from over 100 companies throughout the conference and during the career fair. Several students had interviews for summer internships and possibly full-time positions with some of the companies.

Teams from 40 schools entered the conference design contest. Of these, 10 (including NMSU), presented their design projects, including complete plans and a project prototype, at the conference. The NMSU team, **Vernon Solis** (senior/CE), **Sean Barley** (senior/ME), **Denise Trujillo** (freshman/CE), and **Teresa Tafoya** (senior/CE), took third place with their "Simple Lip Lock"—a device combining a lipstick, mirror, lip pencil and sharpener all in one for the "businesswoman of the 90s."

Other conference attendees were **Lorena Castro, Elizabeth Contreras, Adonica Garcia, Rebecca Alba, Gilbert Varela, Angelic Covarrubia, Julio Mendoza, Angela Serrano, Monica Uriarte, Mario Ortiz, Antonio Castro, John Romero, Chris L. Marquez, John L. Padilla, and Orlando Esparza.**

The conference trip was funded in part through New Mexico AMP and the Waste-management Education and Research Consortium (WERC).

Two names familiar to New Mexico AMP were part of *Hispanic Engineer* magazine's list of the "Top Hispanics in Technology" printed in the February/March, 1998 issue. **Richard Tapia**, Professor of Computational Mathematics at Rice University, and **Ellen Ochoa**, NASA astronaut, were among the 20 top scientists, engineers, and business leaders who "demonstrate dedication, perseverance, and brilliance." Dr. Tapia and Ms. Ochoa were keynote speakers at the 5th Annual National Science Foundation Alliances for Minority Participation Student Research Conference hosted by the New Mexico AMP in July, 1997.

(From: *Hispanic Engineer and Information Technology*, February/March 1998, p. 26-28)

New Mexico AMP Participating Institutions

Albuquerque Technical Vocational Institute

Richard Araiza
Arts and Sciences/Mathematics
(505) 224-3674

Clovis Community College

Dr. Felding Wilson
Director of Digital Electronics
(505) 769-4951

Diné College

Dr. Mark Bauer
Chair, Math and Natural Sciences Dept.
(505) 368-5291

Eastern New Mexico University (ENMU)

Dr. Regina Aragón
Assistant Professor of Mathematics
(505) 562-2328

ENMU-Roswell

Bob Bowman, Dean
Student Services
(505) 624-7158

ENMU-Ruidoso

James P. Miller, Jr.
Campus Director
(505) 257-2162

Luna Vocational Technical Institute

Gilbert Ortiz
Tech Prep Coordinator
(505) 454-2533

Mesa Technical College

Bob Lamm
AMP Coordinator
(505) 461-4413 ext. 113

New Mexico Highlands University

Dr. Dick Greene
Professor, Engineering Program
(505) 454-3365

New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology

Eric Van
Coordinator of Minority Affairs
(505) 835-5538

New Mexico Junior College

Robert Turner
Program Coordinator
(505) 392-5411

New Mexico Military Institute

Dr. William E. Gibbs
Academic Dean
(505) 624-8022

Jerry Garcia
Program Coordinator
(505) 624-8152

New Mexico State University (NMSU)

Carolina Aguirre
Special Projects Coordinator
(505) 646-5212

Ethnic Program Offices (NMSU)

Dr. Laura Gutierrez-Spencer
Director, Chicano Programs
(505) 646-4206

Mike Davis
Director, Black Programs
(505) 646-4208

Harry Lujan
Director, American Indian Programs
(505) 646-4207

NMSU-Alamogordo Branch

Dr. Jack Davis
College Instructor
(505) 439-3791

NMSU-Carlsbad Branch

Diana J. Clements
Recruitment Coordinator
(505) 885-8831 ext. 223

NMSU-Doña Ana Branch

Mike Adams
Division Head, Technical Studies
(505) 527-7520

NMSU-Grants Branch

Bernadette Montoya
Asst. Campus Director
(505) 287-7981

Northern New Mexico Community College

Anthony Sena
Chair, Math, Science & Engineering Dept.
(505) 747-2230

San Juan College

Larry Welsh
Division Director, Math/Science/
Allied Health
(505) 599-0428

Santa Fe Community College

Steve Peralta
Math/Science Coordinator
(505) 438-1365

John Pantano
Math/Science Division Head
(505) 438-1365

Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute

Joan Johnson
Coordinator, Upward Bound &
Math/Science
(505) 897-5712

University of New Mexico (UNM)

Dr. Joseph D. Torres
NASA Training Project
(505) 277-1417

UNM-Gallup Campus

Vicki Olson
Instructor/AMP Coordinator
(505) 863-7536

UNM-Los Alamos Campus

Dr. Phyllis Mingus-Pepin
Deputy Director, Student Services &
Instruction
(505) 662-5919 ext. 720
(800) 894-5919

UNM-Taos Campus

Dr. Augustine Martinez
Campus Director
(505) 758-7648

UNM-Valencia Campus

Jenna Johnson
Project Coordinator
(505) 925-8600

Western New Mexico University

Dr. Roland Shook
Professor, Natural Sciences
(505) 538-6423

New Mexico AMP Statewide Offices

Director:

Dr. Ricardo B. Jacquez

Co-Director:

Dr. Rudi Schoenmackers

Program Manager:

Michele Buntain

Public Information Coordinator:

Karen Luces

Special Projects Coordinator:

Carolina Aguirre

Administrative Secretary III:

Suzanne Molina

Co-Principal Investigators:

Dr. Mark C. Bauer
Navajo Community College

Dr. Steven Castillo
New Mexico State
University

Dr. Antonio Lara
New Mexico State
University

Dr. Sigfredo Maestas
Northern New Mexico
Community College

**New Mexico Alliance for
Minority Participation**

MSC-3AMP

New Mexico State University

P.O. Box 30001

Las Cruces, New Mexico

80003-8001

Telephone: (505) 646-1847

Fax : (505) 646-2960

E-mail: amp@nmsu.edu

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**New Mexico Alliance for
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New Mexico State University

P.O. Box 30001

Las Cruces, New Mexico

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