

# NMSU Pioneers Newsletter

## In this issue:



2



Fall  
Luncheon:  
Wednesday,  
November 18

3



4

## Thank you for your generosity!



*Jeremy Harlas was awarded a Pioneer Book Scholarship in memory of former Board Member Eddie Groth. He is pictured with Patty Groth, daughter of Eddie Groth, at the 2nd Annual Scholarship Recipient Gelato event in August.*

Thanks to the generosity of our long term and retired employees, four students received a \$1,000 Pioneers Book scholarship this year! All the students are in their Junior year and are all descendants of NMSU alumni.

Jeremy Harlas received the scholarship in memory of former board member Eddie Groth. Jeremy graduated from Los Lunas High School and is pursuing a degree in Criminal Justice and English. His mother and father both graduated from NMSU with degrees in Electrical Engineering.

Janelle Cook received the scholarship in memory of Pioneers Founder, President Gerald Thomas. Janelle is pursuing a degree in Special Education and Elementary Education. Her father graduated from NMSU with a Bachelors of Engineering Technology.

Sydney Sanchez received the scholarship in memory of former board member Joe Creed. Sydney is pursuing a degree in Animal Science. Her mother and grandfather are both NMSU Alumni.

Jordan Ulibarri-Sanchez received the scholarship in memory of former board member Glynn Throneberry. Jordan is pursuing a degree in Aerospace Engineering and Mechanical Engineering. His mother graduated from NMSU.

## NMSU Pioneers and Students Bridging Generations

For engineering students, a chance to use concepts learned in the classroom for projects with tangible outcomes is one of the most exciting aspects of their program. Projects like the Steel Bridge and Concrete Canoe are the ultimate test of skills and knowledge, with the added benefit of creating what one student calls “really cool stuff.”

With enthusiastic support from Pioneer Conrad Keyes and other donors, the Concrete Canoe team embraced innovation by reformulating the concrete used at the national competition sponsored by the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE). NMSU’s ‘Grand Ascension’ Concrete Canoe was a triumph of team work and ingenuity.

ASCE also challenges students to find new and better ways to design, fabricate and erect a steel bridge. Steel Bridge brings together students from different departments, each with their own specialties, areas of expertise and goals.



Both projects help students unleash creativity and build project management and team building skills. Is it any wonder that the Pioneers - with their enduring spirit and commitment to NMSU - are helping students build a strong future?

“Everyone has different strengths,” said one student. “We learned to appreciate different styles and approaches.”

## NMSU Pioneer continues the tradition of giving



*Rani Alexander, Anthropology Department Head and Mr. George Roberts presented the Roberts Memorial Award this year to Barbara Burrell, a key employee in the Department of Anthropology.*

recognition of employees and maintain a close relationship with the university.

Our Pioneers are a wealth of knowledge about NMSU and they come together at least three times per year to stay connected with former employees, current employees and to learn what is happening on campus.

George Roberts was the former assistant vice president for business affairs. He and his wife Bernice established the Roberts Memorial Award in 1983 in memory of their sons, Steven W. Roberts and Robert E. Roberts, who were both NMSU students.

Pioneers are NMSU Retirees or NMSU employees (and their spouses) who worked at NMSU at least 20 years. The group was founded in 1984 by NMSU President Emeritus Gerald Thomas, George Roberts and others to foster pride and

Thanks to the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. Roberts, a cash award is presented annually to a staff member who has provided dedicated and outstanding service to the university for more than five years.



You are cordially invited to the  
**Fall Pioneers Luncheon**

**Wednesday, November 18**  
**11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**  
Columbus Center  
901 Avenida de Mesilla

**Special Guests:**  
Mario Moccia, Athletic Director  
Bernadette Montoya, VP Student Affairs and  
Enrollment Management

## **Please RSVP by Nov. 13th, 2015**

You can pre-pay for the Pioneers Luncheon in the following ways:

\* Return the enclosed form with payment.

Mail To:

NMSU Foundation  
PO Box 3590  
Las Cruces, NM 88003

\* Call Darlene Nelson at (575) 646-2002

\* Email Darlene Nelson: [darlenen@nmsu.edu](mailto:darlenen@nmsu.edu)

## **Pioneers Membership Dues**

Members are asked to reaffirm their commitment to the NMSU Pioneers by paying the annual membership dues. The membership rate is \$15 annually for an individual membership or \$24 annually for a joint membership.

Please send in your dues by: December 31, 2015

We know that you may be receiving this newsletter for the first time but wanted you to know that we appreciate our long term employees and retirees! We hope you will stay connected with NMSU by joining us for the Luncheon or becoming a dues paying member today!

## Crimson Colleagues Faculty and Staff Campaign

“What is a Crimson Colleague?” If you are an NMSU employee who gives to NMSU, either through one-time gifts or payroll deduction, you are a Crimson Colleague. One in ten donors is a NMSU employee!

The Crimson Colleagues Advisory Council represents the campus community and is led by two campus volunteers - Associate Dean of the College of Business Steve Elias and Assistant VP of Student Engagement Terry Cook (pictured). We asked them a few questions about giving back to NMSU, and here's what they had to say.



### When did you make your first gift?

Terry Cook: Early in my NMSU career in the mid-90's! Since then I have focused my giving to endow a scholarship in the name of Lupe Torres, a much loved administrative assistant who touched the lives of many students through the Student Success Center.

Steve Elias: In 2008. Since then, I have also been giving to a scholarship in honor of retired Management Professor, John Loveland, to help students in business management.

### What prompted you to make your first gift?

Terry Cook: My supervisor Susan Brown talked with me about giving to scholarships that would help support students.

Steve Elias: My wife and I realized that we start and finish each day with KRWG, so we thought we ought to give back. When I found out there was a scholarship in honor of Dr. Loveland-someone for whom I have great respect-I started giving by payroll deduction to that fund.

### Why do you give back to NMSU?

Terry Cook: I know that my gifts are helping the students (through scholarships) and the faculty (through the Teaching Academy) at NMSU.

Steve Elias: I give back to NMSU because NMSU has been great to my family. In addition to my working here since 2008, my wife has worked on campus for several years. My children learned to walk near the duck pond and swim in the natatorium. In addition, the people on campus are extremely kind, so it only makes sense to give back.



**One day can make a difference.**

**Please make plans to make an impact in the lives of students on Tuesday, December 1.**

**Every dollar given to a Scholarship Fund on #GivingTuesday will be matched!**

**[advancing.nmsu.edu/givingtuesday](http://advancing.nmsu.edu/givingtuesday)**