



NMMI ALUMNI RELATIONS | ALUMNIOFFICE@NMMI.EDU

WELCOME TO OUR Monthly E-Newsletter

From the Director's Desk

ATTENTION IN THE AREA, ATTENTION OFF POST

For over 60 years Alumni have been supporting NMMI and the Corps of Cadets through varying opportunities, whether it be time, knowledge, or financial contributions. We can not begin to thank you enough for the support throughout the years and the impact this has had on Alumni like yourselves as well as current and future cadets. Early discussions with the Alumni Relations staff has led us to the focal point of providing information to each and every one of you that helps define and provide a foundation of what the basic expectation of an alumnus is and the avenues that can be taken advantage of to continue providing an impact.

The purpose of Alumni is to help provide an anchor towards the future for all cadets as well a bridge between traditions and an evolving society. Involvement can take many shapes, forms and have varying degrees of meaning but at its core it means to "participate", this can be done by attending events both Alumni sponsored or school sponsored, sending in updates, making a donation to the annual fund or another endowment, sharing news on social media and using your experience to help generate interests of future potential cadets. Alumni provide a great source of enrollment, ideas, support, and assistance as well as a medium through with an overview of historical perspective of the NMMI experience can be gained.

ALUMNI IDENTITY

Engaged Relationships – Stay current and up to date, attend events.

Tradition – Tradition never graduates!

Support – Time, knowledge, monetary donations.

Positivity – The NMMI model has been in place and worked for over 130 years.

Passion – Makes YOU unique, sets YOU apart

We always want to embody the NMMI Spirit....

Nostalgic – Meaningful – Memorable – Integrity

Kris Ward

Director of Alumni Relations and Institutional Advancement



Kris Ward

Executive Director of
Alumni Relations and
Institutional Advancement



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Meet the Team



Kris Ward

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ALUMNI RELATIONS
& INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT



Janice Weed '93 HS

DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI RELATIONS



Natalie Perez

ANNUAL FUND OFFICER



Karla Juarez

COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR



Alicia Morales

ADMINISTRATIVE SPECIALIST



Leslie Palombi

SPECIAL EVENTS COORDINATOR



Destini Hernandez

GIFT PROCESSOR/FINANCIAL LIAISON

Greetings from the NMMI Alumni Relations Office!

As your bridge to the NMMI community, we're committed to fostering lifelong connections and supporting your post-graduation journey. Join us for networking, mentorship, and opportunities to stay engaged with your alma mater.

Alumni Relations Office

Monday – Friday 0730–1630

Alumnioffice@nmmi.edu

101 West College Blvd,

Daniels Leadership Center,

Roswell, NM 88201

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The Scheid's visit to NMMI

On Thursday, March 27, 2025, the Alumni Relations Office was joined by Gerald Scheid ('55HS) and his wife, Carrie, from Idaho. We (as a staff) and the Scheid's have been looking forward to this visit since the fall, when their visit was canceled due to the Roswell Flood. Gerald's last visit to the Institute was over a decade ago, and while in the grand scheme of NMMI's history, that seems like a drop in the bucket, however, so much has changed on Post. Since his last visit, Bates Hall was remodeled (and is currently under construction), the Infirmary, Pearson Auditorium, the bowling Alley and the PX were all remodeled; the Cadet Store was moved; Cahoon Armory was remodeled from the ground up and has become a gem in athletics, and the Intermediate Preparatory Academy (IPA), NMMI's middle school have opened. It was also Gerry's first visit to the Daniel's Leadership Center, seeing the Ropes Course and Leadership Challenge course. We were regaled with cadet stories from the 50's. Gerald got a good look at cadet life during lunch at Bates, and while many things have changed, hungry cadets remain.



*Written by Janice Weed 93 HS
Interim Deputy Director of Alumni Relations*

Gerald and Carrie joined local alumni at The Liberty, Inc. that evening for our quarterly after-hours. Joe Mainello ('55SC) and his son, Mike Mainello ('79JC), were able to catch up with Gerry and reminisce about the Corp of Cadets in the '50s and get an update on NMMI from President/Superintendent Brigadier General Voris McBurnette.

Thank you, Gerald and Carrie, for spending a fun day with us!

If you are interested in a guided tour of NMMI, please call Alicia Morales to schedule a time. AMorales@nmmi.edu; 575-624-8251



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LEGACY AT NMMI

Honoring the Past, Shaping the Future

Legacy at NMMI is more than just a connection to the past; it's a living, breathing tradition. For legacy cadets, the link to the Institute runs deep, not only because they follow in the footsteps of their parents or relatives but because they are actively shaping NMMI's future. This bond goes beyond the halls and uniforms, it's a shared understanding of values, discipline, and honor.

At NMMI, legacy cadets are celebrated for their unique connection to the Institute. The Alumni Relations Office hosts a special dinner each semester to honor these cadets and their families, recognizing the lasting impact of multi-generational ties to NMMI.

Voices of Legacy Cadets

This is what several legacy cadets had to say about their experiences and how their family history has shaped their time at NMMI.

Cadet Octavian Chavez, a senior and First Sergeant of Bravo Troop, shared how his father's role at NMMI inspired him to reach similar heights. "When my father was at NMMI, he was First Sergeant. That motivated me to achieve the same goal. I'm proud to say I realized that during my senior year." Cadet 1SG Chavez is now headed to West Point, furthering his education and leadership development.

Cadet Valeria Herrera, whose family has a long history at NMMI, reflected on the pressure that comes with being a legacy cadet. "It feels intense, there's an expectation set, and standards set. That at times can be very overwhelming." Despite this pressure, she is driven by a sense of duty to uphold the traditions of her family. She expressed that her father and brother both went through NMMI and learned a lot from their experiences. One thing they passed down was a deep respect for NMMI's standards, especially the tradition of not tolerating dishonorable behavior. Cadet SGT Herrera also sees her role as more than just continuing a family tradition. "We have a role to uphold higher standards. It's our job to show compassion, help fellow cadets, and set an example for those who come after us."

For Cadet Mia Martinez, the connection to NMMI runs even deeper. "I feel proud to follow in my dad's footsteps. He taught me everything I needed to succeed as a RAT before matriculation. He taught me how to square my corners, the Goss Quote, and how to properly address superiors." This mentorship from her father made her transition to NMMI smoother and instilled in her a strong sense of discipline. "I believe Silver Taps is one of the most important traditions at NMMI," Cadet 1LT Martinez added, referring to the solemn event where cadets and alumni honor fallen comrades. "It brings cadets and alumni together and allows them to grieve the loss of the fallen alumni together. I think this tradition should be carried on for many years to come so everyone can honor the alumni we've lost and feel that sense of unity."

Both Cadet 1LT Martinez and Cadet SGT Herrera spoke on their independent decision to attend NMMI regardless of their family's influence. They recognized the value of NMMI. Cadet 1LT Martinez shared, "I was a RAT in August 2022, and I chose to come here because it was something different. My dad being an alumni helped with my decision, but it was not the deciding factor. I liked how different NMMI was, and I wanted to try something new. After my time here at the institute, I plan on going to college to study political science and law."

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*Ygloria
Herrera*



*Phia
Martinez*



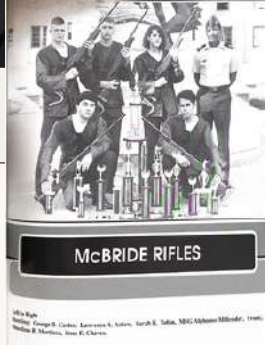
*Octavian
Chavez*



*Hadrian
Chavez*



Luis Herrera, El Paso, TX
President's List, Commandant's Commendation
Award, Drill Team, Platoon Leader, Best New
Cadet, 1st Place in Sally Port Competition.



Isaac E. Chavez
Las Cruces
New Mexico



Luis I. Herrera
El Paso, Texas

Luis came to NMMI because it was a family tradition. His father graduated here in 1977. Since he's been here, he's been a member of the Centurions, took first place in the Sally Port drill down, was the outstanding RAT from his troop for a semester, and a 2LT in Lima troop. Next year he plans to attend New Mexico State, or Sam Houston State, to major in criminal justice. Favorite Quote: "Do it, but don't get caught." (Tour Squad motto).

Shaping the Future

For these cadets, being part of a legacy means more than just living up to family expectations. It's about carrying forward NMMI's traditions, setting an example for others, and contributing to the growth and future of the Institute. Whether by excelling in leadership roles, honoring NMMI's traditions, or helping fellow cadets succeed, legacy cadets continue to define what it means to be part of the NMMI family.

As these cadets move forward, whether to prestigious military academies, universities, or into careers, they leave behind a legacy of their own, ensuring that the values and traditions of NMMI remain strong for generations to come.



*Written by Natalie Perez
Annual Fund Officer*

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GET READY TO SADDLE UP FOR THE 35TH ANNUAL NMMI TRAIL RIDE!

MAYHILL, NM

Howdy, y'all! Your favorite (and might I add, most enthusiastic) event coordinator is here to give you the lowdown on the 35th Annual NMMI Trail Ride! Get ready for an unforgettable experience filled with horses, camaraderie, and a whole lotta country charm.

We're moseying on down a new trail this year, and I'm beyond excited to share all the details with you. This ain't your grandma's trail ride (unless your grandma is Dolly Parton, in which case, giddy-up!).



CMA Awards Night - Friday Night Showdown!

Hold your horses, because Friday night is going to be legendary! We're transforming our special dinner into a CMA Awards Night theme! That's right, we're bringing Nashville to the NMMI! And we're not skimping on the grub, either. Get ready to sink your teeth into some delicious surf and turf! But the food is just the beginning. We'll be handing out some seriously amazing awards, and enjoying a live performance by alumni favorite, Huggy and the Pacemakers!

And what would a CMA night be without a few awards?

So, we'll be handing out some seriously amazing awards, including:

- **Biggest Belt Buckle:** Show us your bling! The bigger, the better!
- **Paparazzi's Favorite:** Strike a pose! We'll be honoring whoever gets snapped the most by our "paparazzi."
- **Southern Charm Award:** Think Miss Congeniality, but with a country twist. Who's the sweetest, most charming country star among us?
- **Boot Scootin' Boogie:** Dust off your dancing shoes and prepare to compete for the title of best dancer!

Dress to Impress!

So, what should you wear? Easy! Come dressed as your favorite country star or in your finest country-style attire. Think rhinestones, fringe, cowboy boots, and hats - the whole shebang!

Saddle Up!

Now, let's talk about the most important part: the horses! To make sure you're ready to ride, reach out to the amazing Nancy Burch at Roadrunner Tours to secure your trusty steed.

[Roadrunner Tours, LLC. Reservations](#)

Mark Your Calendars!

Last but not least, wrangle your friends and family and get ready to register! Early bird pricing ends on May 1st, so don't miss out on the savings!

I can't wait to see you all there for a rootin' tootin' good time! Let's make this year's Trail Ride the best one yet!



*Written by Leslie Palombi
Event Coordinator*



EMPLOYEE LUNCHEON CELEBRATES DEDICATION AND COMMUNITY



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AROUND POST



On April 8th, the New Mexico Military Institute hosted a special luncheon to honor employees who generously contribute to funding for cadets. The event was a heartfelt celebration of the staff and faculty whose personal donations help support scholarships, events, and essential resources for cadet success.

Brigadier General McBurnette gave a powerful and sincere speech, expressing his deep appreciation for the ongoing commitment of NMMI employees. He emphasized how every contribution—no matter the size—makes a meaningful impact on the lives of the young men and women in the Corps of Cadets.

Adding an emotional touch to the event, several cadets gave moving testimonials. They spoke with genuine gratitude about how the support they've received has helped shape their journey at NMMI. Their words served as a living reminder of the difference employee giving makes every day.

This luncheon was not just a thank-you—it was a celebration of generosity, community, and the shared mission of building tomorrow's leaders. Thank you to all who give in support of our cadets. Your generosity makes a lasting difference.

A big congrats to our NMMI STEM cadets for their standout performance at the New Mexico State Science Fair on April 12!

Team 1: "The Road to a Greener Winter: Crafting an Eco-Friendly Deicer"

Cadets Ton That Bach, Alehi Musani, and Jaylah Clay
3rd Place – Plant Category

Special Award – CO₂ & Greenhouse Gas Reduction

Team 2: "Brick by Brick: Paving the Way to a Sustainable Future in New Mexico"

Cadets Sylvia Xu, Steven Xu, and Lucas Tang

Honorable Mention – Engineering Technology & Material Science

Special Award – CO₂ & Greenhouse Gas Reduction

Proud of these young leaders turning ideas into innovation!





TAPS

ROBERT	L.	ANDREWS	1955	HS	13-JUL-20
DOUGLAS	T.	BELL	1965	JC	11-MAR-25
WILMER	K.	BENSON	1961	JC	09-APR-25
ROBERT	A.	DALZIEL	1958	JC	
LAWRENCE	K.	LOCKE	1962	HS	10-DEC-24
GARY	H.	LUTHER	1973	JC	05-JAN-25
WOODROW	L.	OVERTON	1959	HS	22-APR-25
JOSEPH	H.	PEACOCK	1964	HS	20-APR-25
MIMS	C.	REED	1956	HS	29-APR-25
JAMES	M.	SHAW	1962	JC	18-MAR-25
JERRY	C.	UTTZ	1959	JC	29-MAR-25
WILLIAM	A.	WALTON	1945	HS	18-JUN-21



Alumni Reported Deceased
March 31, 2025



A quote from the 1933
Bronco about cadet,
George O. Speer 1933
JC, who was killed in a
Polo Game–

**“BUT IF THEY ARE
GONE FROM OUR
RANKS, WE KEEP THEM
ON OUR ROSTER AS
VALUES ONCE
INTIMATELY KNOWN
AND AVAILABLE IN
OUR RECOLLECTIONS,
AND IN OUR HEARTS.
THEY WILL REMAIN
FOREVER YOUNG.”**

