



NMMI ALUMNI RELATIONS | ALUMNIOFFICE@NMMI.EDU

## WELCOME TO OUR Monthly E-Newsletter

From the Director's Desk

### ATTENTION IN THE AREA, ATTENTION OFF POST

There are few things as important as the need to feel connected, to bond with others over common interests, beliefs, and experiences. Too often we find ourselves so busy that we don't make time to re-connect and reminisce about the people and places who helped shape us into who we are today.

At the start of a new year and a new semester, I want to take the opportunity to wish you the very best for 2025, with hopes that you and yours are safe and well and to assure you of your belonging in this special NMMI community that we share. In the Alumni Relations Office, we have endeavored to connect you with each other and with NMMI, establishing, re-establishing, creating, and reinforcing the bonds you first formed as cadets and that will never leave you. We hope to continue do so in this New Year and invite you to pursue NMMI alumni programs and events of interest.

2025 Trail Ride is the first such event that allows you all to reconnect. We hope to have registration for the event open before March and are excited about this year's location and all that it has to offer. This event offers something for all patrons who attend and does not require an interest in horseback riding or ATV's. The comradery and conversations that take place in the mess tent, listening to live music and around camp sites is what truly makes the Trail Ride unique and something that must be seen firsthand to truly grasp.

For most, your time at NMMI is brief – possibly one year, often four, and perhaps more for those who pursue high school and junior college. But as I like to say, there is a magic to the NMMI experience. NMMI lives with us after we leave post – in our memories and in each other. Looking forward to seeing old friends and meeting new ones during 2025 and I hope to see you all somewhere along the trail!

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](mailto:Alumnioffice@nmmi.edu)

101 West College Blvd,

Daniels Leadership Center,

Roswell, NM 88201

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# ATTENTION CLASSES ENDING IN 5 CALLING FOR CLASS REPRESENTATIVES



## Join Us in Bringing Your Class Together!

Every year, we strive to have dedicated Class Representatives for each graduating class, including both Junior College and High School alumni. For Homecoming 2025, we are looking for two representatives per class to help make this event even more special!

### Why Are Class Reps Important?

There is something truly meaningful about being invited to an event by old classmates who shared the same journey, traditions, and values. As a Class Representative, you play a vital role in encouraging participation and keeping your classmates engaged with NMMI.

### What Are Your Responsibilities?

- Stay in close contact with the NMMI Alumni Relations Office and Communications Coordinator (that's me!).
- Receive a list of your class year, including emails and phone numbers, to assist with outreach.
- Write a personal invitation to your class, encouraging them to register for Homecoming. I will send this out as a mass email, including your contact information for any follow-ups.
- Work with our Marketing Specialist if you'd like to personalize a flyer with your own touch.
- If you come across outdated or incorrect contact information, highlight those in red and send them back so I can update our records.
- Receive and distribute updated event flyers to your classmates as I send them to you.
- Join a monthly follow-up call or Zoom check-in to update on outreach efforts and discuss any support needed.
- Forward any questions, suggestions, or requests from classmates to me, and I will work with our director to get you answers quickly.

Help make Homecoming 2025 unforgettable! Interested in being a Class Rep? Contact me.  
[Karla D. Juarez Communications Coordinator fierro@nmmi.edu](mailto:fierro@nmmi.edu) | [575-624-8257](tel:575-624-8257)

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# YOUR VOICE matters



At the NMMI Alumni Relations Office, our mission is to create events that you not only want to attend but truly enjoy. Our goal is to make Homecoming and other alumni gatherings more accessible, engaging, and memorable—and we can't do that without your input!

In the coming months, you'll be seeing more surveys from us. These surveys are designed to help us understand what works, what doesn't, and how we can improve. Whether it's about event timing, locations, activities, or anything else that affects your experience, we want to hear it all—the good, the bad, and everything in between.



## Your feedback helps us:

- Make events easier for you to attend
- Plan activities that are meaningful and fun
- Ensure you want to come back year after year—and bring your friends!

But we need your participation! If you've skipped surveys before, we'd love to know why—is there something stopping you from responding? What would make it easier? Your honesty is key to helping us grow and do better.

Be on the lookout for our upcoming surveys, and please take a few moments to share your thoughts. Together, we can make NMMI alumni events better than ever!



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Hello everyone!

As your fiercely dedicated Alumni special event coordinator, I'm absolutely thrilled to connect with you all and share some exciting updates and upcoming events. I know firsthand the drive and ambition that unites our incredible alumni network – that fire in the belly, that unwavering pursuit of excellence. We're a force to be reckoned with, and I'm so proud to be a part of this dynamic group. We're not just resting on our laurels; we're constantly striving, achieving, and making a real impact on the world. And that's why I'm so passionate about fostering connections and providing opportunities for us to come together and celebrate our shared legacy.

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**We've got a jam-packed calendar designed to bring us all closer,**

**whether you're looking to network, reminisce, or simply have a fantastic time. Mark your calendars, because you won't want to miss these!**

# UPCOMING



EVENTS

## Meet & Greet

Join us for our first alumni event of the year—a Meet & Greet in Fort Worth, TX! Hosted by H. Fielding Chandler, this is a great chance to reconnect, share memories, and make new friends over food and drinks.  
March 8, 2025 | 6–8 PM  
Fred's Texas Cafe  
Contact: H. Fielding Chandler  
817-291-8719

## After Hours

Next: Join Superintendent BG McBurnette for an exclusive after hours on March 27th at the Liberty. This is a fantastic opportunity to connect with Superintendent McBurnette, hear about the latest developments and vision for our institution, and share your own insights.

## Legacy Dinner

Our elegant Spring Legacy Dinner is scheduled for April 24th. This special evening provides a chance for our legacy cadets, their families, and fellow legacies to connect over a delicious meal and celebrate the enduring traditions that bind us. It's a beautiful way to honor our past and inspire future generations.

## Trail Ride 2025

Dust off your cowboy boots and get ready for our 35th Annual Trail Ride! From June 3rd to June 7th, we'll be heading to the breathtaking Camp of the Tall Pines in Mayhill, NM, for a Western-themed adventure. This isn't just a ride; it's an experience. Think stunning scenery, camaraderie, and a whole lot of Western fun.

## General's Cup Golf Tournament

For our golf enthusiasts, the prestigious General's Cup Golf Tournament is back! Join us from September 19th to 21st for a challenging and rewarding tournament. It's a great opportunity to network with fellow alumni, enjoy some friendly competition, and support our alma mater.

## Homecoming 2025

And finally, get ready to celebrate a milestone! Our 101st Homecoming, honoring classes ending in '5, will take place from October 22nd to 25th. This is the big one – a chance to reconnect with old friends, relive cherished memories, and celebrate the enduring spirit of our institution. Prepare for a weekend filled with laughter, nostalgia, and pure joy.

These events are made possible through the generosity of our community. If you're passionate about supporting these initiatives and ensuring their continued success, we'd love to partner with you! Please reach out to our Annual Fund Officer, Natalie Perez, to discuss sponsorship opportunities. Your contribution, big or small, makes a significant difference. I'm incredibly excited about the year ahead and the opportunities it holds for our alumni community. I look forward to seeing you at these events! Let's continue to make our mark on the world, together.

Onwards and upwards!  
Leslie Palombi

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# SUPPORT NMMI'S MISSION WITH A RECURRING GIFT

A strong and thriving New Mexico Military Institute depends on the generosity of our alumni, parents, and friends. By making a recurring gift to the **NMMI Annual Fund**, you play a vital role in sustaining the Institute's excellence and ensuring its long-term success.

The Annual Fund directly supports **academic programs, scholarships, Cadet Activities, and critical institutional needs**, allowing NMMI to remain responsive to challenges and seize new opportunities for growth. Recurring gifts provide financial stability, ensuring we can maintain operations, enhance programs, and invest in the future.

Your ongoing support fuels our mission to develop principled leaders who excel in **academics, leadership, and athletics**. Every gift—no matter the size—creates a lasting impact on our cadets and NMMI's legacy.

Join us today and  
help shape the  
future of NMMI!



For any questions or to learn more about how to contribute, please contact Natalie Perez, Annual Fund Officer, at 575-624-8158 or email [perez@nmmi.edu](mailto:perez@nmmi.edu).



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# SUPPORT NMMI'S FUTURE: YOUR GIFT, YOUR IMPACT, YOUR LEGACY

As NMMI alums, you understand the life-changing experiences that helped shape who you are today. Now, it's time to ensure those same opportunities are available to the next generation of cadets. Whether you're looking to give now or create a lasting legacy, NMMI offers several ways for you to get involved in supporting NMMI's mission. One of the most effective ways to make a lasting impact is through our Plannual Giving Model, which offers three key giving categories: Annual Giving, Special Giving, and Deferred/Legacy Giving. Each category allows alumni to contribute in ways that align with their personal giving goals and NMMI's evolving needs.



## The Plannual Giving Model:

**The Plannual Giving Model** is a framework that integrates three types of giving to ensure that NMMI has the resources it needs to provide a world-class education for our cadets today, tomorrow, and future generations.

### 1. Annual Giving: Support Today

Annual giving is essential to funding current cadet activities, scholarships, and experiences. These gifts provide the flexibility needed to meet immediate needs and ensure cadets access to excellent education and leadership development.

### 2. Special Giving: Building for the Future

Special giving allows alumni to contribute to long-term initiatives such as new facilities, endowments, or programs. These gifts play a key role in ensuring that NMMI continues to grow and evolve to meet the needs of future cadets.

### 3. Planned and Legacy Giving: A Lasting Impact

Planned or legacy giving, such as bequests, trusts, wills, or planned gifts, creates a lasting legacy for NMMI. These gifts provide long-term financial stability and help ensure that future generations of cadets benefit from the same opportunities that shaped your experience.

## Make Your Gift. Make Your Impact. Make Your Legacy.

**The Plannual Giving Model** reflects a commitment to NMMI's future at every giving stage. Whether contributing today to support current cadets or planning for a legacy to sustain the Institute in perpetuity, your gift is essential to NMMI's continued success.

We encourage all alumni to consider their role in this model and make a contribution that fits their current circumstances and long-term goals. Your involvement with NMMI does not end with graduation—it is a lifelong connection. Every immediate or planned gift plays a crucial role in shaping our institution's future and our cadets' experiences.

Join us in ensuring that NMMI remains a place where young leaders grow, develop, and succeed. If you have any questions or need assistance with making a gift, please contact me

at **Janice Weed 93 HS Interim Deputy Director of Alumni Relations (575) 624-8246**

[jweed@nmmi.edu](mailto:jweed@nmmi.edu) Thank you for your continued support of NMMI!



ALBUQUERQUE CHAPTER



Photos from the NMMI  
Valentine's Social -  
Albuquerque Chapter



THE NMMI ALUMNI ALBUQUERQUE  
CHAPTER HOSTED A FANTASTIC  
VALENTINE'S SOCIAL AT DH  
LESCOMBES, AND IT WAS A NIGHT  
TO REMEMBER! ALUMNI CAME  
TOGETHER FOR AN EVENING OF  
FUN, CONNECTION, AND  
CELEBRATION.



## AROUND POST

# Cresting Challenge



After a month of hard work, teamwork, and dedication, our New Spring RAT Cadets have conquered the Cresting Challenge!

This isn't just any challenge—it's a test of grit, knowledge, and endurance featuring an obstacle course, a knowledge station, and the fitness factory.

These cadets pushed their limits, proved their strength, and took one step closer to becoming full-fledged members of the Corps! Let's give them a round of applause as they continue their NMMI journey with Duty, Honor, and Achievement!

—By the NMMI Facebook Page



## Cresting Ceremony

One month down, and a lifetime of leadership ahead! Our New Spring RAT Cadets have officially earned their crest after conquering the Cresting Challenge—a true test of endurance, teamwork, and determination.

This ceremony marks their growth, grit, and unwavering spirit as they take their next steps in the Corps. From tackling obstacles to proving their knowledge and fitness, they showed up, dug deep, and conquered!

—By the NMMI Facebook Page



## AROUND POST

# Spring Academic Excellence Dinner



***Celebrating Hard Work & High Achievements!***

***The Spring Academic Excellence Dinner was all about honoring the cadets who have gone above and beyond in their academics. Their dedication to learning, leadership, and success is what makes NMMI a place where excellence thrives! Congratulations to all who earned this well-deserved recognition***



## AROUND POST

Cadet Octavian Chavez has earned his place at the prestigious United States Military Academy at West Point! This incredible achievement is a testament to his hard work, perseverance, and strong leadership at New Mexico Military Institute.

Octavian's journey is one of dedication and success, and this next step marks a significant milestone in his path toward an outstanding military career. We couldn't be prouder of his accomplishments and excited to see all that he will achieve in the future! His proud father, Isaac Chavez (NMMI Class of 1990 HS and 1992 JC), celebrates his son's incredible accomplishment as he embarks on this new chapter. We wish Octavian the best of luck at West Point and look forward to all his future successes!



The NMMI McBride Rifle Team competed at the Rough Rider Skills Meet in San Antonio, TX, and showed precision and pride! Team 1, including C/SFC Davis, C/SSG Williams, C/SSG Calvert, and C/SGT Beltran, finished 5th in the Sporter division. C/SSG Lerma led the individual shooters with the highest NMMI score! After the intense competition, the cadets enjoyed exploring the River Walk and testing their skills in an escape room challenge. A big shoutout to the team for representing NMMI with honor and determination!



# UPCOMING EVENTS!

## March After Hours

It's been a while, but we're excited to announce our next Alumni After Hours! Join us for an evening of reconnecting, reminiscing, and great company. We can't wait to catch up and hear all your latest news. [RSVP NOW](#)

NMMI  
**ALUMNI**  
**AFTER HOURS**  
MARCH 27, 2025

DATE:  
THURSDAY  
MARCH 27, 2025  
6:00 PM

THE LIBERTY INC  
312 N VIRGINIA  
AVE ROSWELL  
NM 88201

NMMI  
**ALUMNI**  
**TRAIL RIDE**  
2025  
35<sup>TH</sup>  
ANNUAL

DATE  
JUNE 3-7  
\$450 FULL RIDE  
\$375 WED-SAT  
\$275 THUR-SAT  
\$125 FRIDAY OR FULL DAY  
\$75 FRIDAY (NIGHT ONLY)

OPEN REGISTRATION  
NOW AVAILABLE!  
2025  
LOCATION:  
CAMP OF TALL PINES  
105 CAMP TALL PINES RD.  
MAYHILL, NM 88339

HIGHLIGHTS  
• GUIDED TRAIL RIDE WITH EXPERIENCED WRANGLERS  
• ATV ADVENTURES  
• CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT  
• CATERED MEALS & REFRESHMENTS  
• NETWORK WITH FELLOW ALUMNI  
• DANCE THURSDAY & FRIDAY NIGHT

REGISTER NOW!

# 3-7 JUNE

Camp of Tall  
Pines

[REGISTER  
NOW](#)

## Join us!

Trail Ride Tickets Are Here! Get ready to saddle up—registration is now open for the 35th Annual Trail Ride! Don't miss out on this exciting adventure. Grab your tickets today!



## TAPS

LARRY	M.	BINGHAM	1970	HS	9-FEB-25
ROBERT	W.	BULLOCK	1955	HS	29-JAN-25
JOHNNY	L.	DUNGAN	1966	HS	9-FEB-25
WALLACE	F.	GABLER	1964	JC	9-FEB-25
PETER	E.	GROSS	1965	HS	
MELVIN	E.	JOHNSON	1955	SC	12-MAY-22
PHILLIP	J.	KOPP	1970	JC	23-JAN-25
WAYLAND	R.	LaFONT	1984	HS	26-JAN-25
DENNIS	J.	MOURER	1955	SC	13-JUL-17
DOUGLAS	H.	PENDER	1953	JC	29-JAN-25
WILLIAM	J.	PENNINGTON	1967	HS	4-FEB-25
PETER		PRZYBOROWSKI	1980	JC	30-JAN-25
JOSEPH	F.	ROBERTSON	1966	JC	2-FEB-25
WILLIAM	H.	TARVER	1967	JC	20-FEB-25
FRANK	K.	TURNER	1959	JC	28-JAN-25
OTTO	C.	VETTER	1955	SC	1-JAN-22



Alumni Reported Deceased  
February 28, 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."**

