



NMMI ALUMNI RELATIONS | ALUMNIOFFICE@NMMI.EDU

WELCOME TO OUR Monthly E-Newsletter

From the Director's Desk

ATTENTION IN THE AREA, ATTENTION OFF POST

Greetings Alumni, Patrons, and Friends,

As we close out the fiscal year and look ahead to the opportunities of 2025–2026, I wanted to take a moment to share an inspiring story from this year's graduation—a true reflection of the values and legacy that define New Mexico Military Institute.


As many of you know, NMMI has a proud tradition of preparing cadets—both sponsored and non-sponsored—for appointments to the five U.S. service academies. These cadets, whether they arrive through more traditional paths or come to us with service academy aspirations, consistently leave NMMI with a deep sense of pride, purpose, and connection.

One particularly meaningful achievement this year was the direct appointment of three high school cadets to U.S. service academies. What makes their accomplishments even more special is that each of them is a legacy cadet—continuing the proud tradition of service and excellence established by their families:

- John Sandoval '25 HSG will be attending the United States Naval Academy this fall. His mother, Carmelita Lopez '94 HSG, is an NMMI graduate.
- Octavian Chavez '25 HSG received an appointment to the United States Military Academy at West Point. His father, Isaac Chavez '90 HSG / '92 JCG, is also an alumnus.
- Cohen Tomasits '25 HSG will also be heading to West Point. His father, Ray Tomasits '92 HSG, is not only an NMMI graduate but also a West Point alumnus.

These stories are a powerful reminder of the strength of our NMMI family—the legacy, leadership, and lifelong impact that begin right here on campus. We are incredibly proud of these cadets and look forward to seeing all that they will accomplish.

Thank you for being part of this journey with us. Enjoy the rest of your summer, and we hope to see you during Homecoming in October—or even sooner!

With gratitude, 

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



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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UPCOMING *Events*



**An Annual
Tradition of the Albuquerque Chapter ♦ 2025**

MENU:
Burgers & Brats
Cold Beer & Wine
Soda & Snacks
Live Music!

Please Join Us
Friday August 15th at 5:30pm for

Burgers Orell



HOSTED BY

Seth '60HS '62JC & Kathy Orell ♦ Pat '63HS '65JC & Elise Orell

RESERVE YOUR SEAT TODAY!
Seating Is Limited To 60 Attendees



**Please Pay CASH
At The Door**

To RSVP Please Email:
Kathy Orell - okathy1950@gmail.com
Randy McMullen - randym@spinn.net

Provide Alumni Name & Name of Attendees
\$10 for Adults - Children 13 & Under Free

Maps provided to attendees with confirmed reservation





New Mexico Military Institute
Presents



General's Cup



14TH ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP GOLF TOURNAMENT & GALA



FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19 - SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

PRACTICE ROUND: FRIDAY, 7 AM - 2 PM (CALL PRO SHOP)
LIVE AUCTION & REGISTRATION: FRIDAY, 6:30 - 9:30 PM (QUARTERS 1)
TOURNAMENT: SATURDAY & SUNDAY
-SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE-

Register Now!
Destini Hernandez - (575) 624-8254
Dhernandez@nmmi.edu





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NMMI ALUMNI MEET & GREET



Colorado Springs



[Join fellow NMMI Alumni for a fun and memorable evening in Colorado!](#)

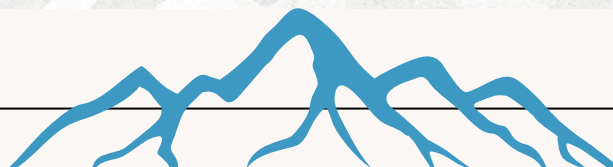
Hosted by Steve Helbing '71HS
and John Wear '65HS,

- **Margarita at Pine Creek**
- **Friday, July 25, 2025**
- **Starting at 5 PM**

[Please RSVP through WIX](#)

Conveniently located just off I-25 between
Briargate and North Colorado Springs
Enjoy complimentary hors d'oeuvres, beer,
and parking!
Reconnect, reminisce, and enjoy great
company

—
We hope to see you there!



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2026 Alumni CRUISE

We had an amazing time on the 2024 NMMI Cruise, so we're doing it again—and this time we're heading to the Dominican Republic, Aruba, & Curaçao Dec 12-20, 2026!

Join fellow NMMI alumni and friends for a tropical getaway that also supports the Institute. That's right—it's a fundraising cruise and the more, the merrier (and the better for NMMI)!

★ What's included?

- ✓ WiFi, drinks, & gratuities (Princess Plus package)
- ✓ Taxes & fees
- ✓ Onboard credit for veterans!

Cabin prices vary with promotions, but we'll help you get the best deal when you're ready to book.

Email Tricia Berry (tberry@cruiseplanners.com) or call/text 505-280-1906 today and let's start planning your spot on this unforgettable 2026 cruise!

[HTTPS://WWW.CRUISESTNT.COM/CS/1811996](https://www.cruisestnt.com/cs/1811996)

LET'S MAKE THIS ANOTHER UNFORGETTABLE NMMI ADVENTURE! 🌞🚢





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NMMI ALUMNI

Homecoming 2025

HOME COMING SCHEDULE 2025

THURSDAY, 23 OCTOBER 2025
NEW MEXICO MILITARY INSTITUTE

0800 – 1100 NMMI FOUNDATION ANNUAL MEMBERS BREAKFAST MEETING (INVITATION ONLY) | NMMI FOUNDATION BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING (JACK DANIELS ROOM, DLC)
0800 – 1600 ALUMNI REGISTRATION INFORMATION (DLC 200)
1140 – 1240 WOMEN OF NMMI LUNCHEON (VMV) (ADMISSION W/ DONATION)
1300 LEFTY STECKLEIN GOLF SOCIAL (NMMI GOLF COURSE) (\$21 PER PLAYER 18HOLES+CAR)
1730 CORPS FORMATION AND MOVEMENT TO SRC
1800 PRAYER SERVICE FOR FAMILIES OF SILVER TAPS HONOREES (ALUMNI CHAPEL)
1840 CORPS FORMATION (HAGERMAN BARRACKS)
1900 SILVER TAPS – CORPS OF CADETS, ALUMNI, AND GUESTS (HAGERMAN BARRACKS)
2000 – 2200 ALUMNI RECEPTION FOLLOWING SILVER TAPS – HOSTED BY BG MCBURNETTE AND MRS. NIKKI MCBURNETTE, ALUMNI AND GUESTS (NO CADETS AND NO ONE UNDER AGE 21) (QUARTERS 1)

FRIDAY, 24 OCTOBER 2025
NEW MEXICO MILITARY INSTITUTE

0730 – 0830 GRAVESIDE DEDICATION: J. PENROD TOLES (SOUTHPARK CEMETERY | PLOT 41-15-4)
0800 – 1600 ALUMNI REGISTRATION INFORMATION (DLC)
0830 – 1030 BOARD OF REGENTS MEETING (BOR CONFERENCE ROOM, LUSK)
1430 – 1600 HALL OF FAME INDUCTION CEREMONY (PEARSON AUDITORIUM)
1600 – 1800 HALL OF FAME RECEPTION – HOSTED BY BG MCBURNETTE & MRS. NIKKI MCBURNETTE (QUARTERS 1) (INVITATION ONLY)
1800 – 2230 CLASS DINNER (ROSWELL COUNTRY CLUB) (\$75 PREORDER | \$85 AFTER SEP 12TH) | LIMITED TO 220 GUESTS)
1900 – 2130 NMMI COLT FOOTBALL VS HOT SPRINGS (COLT FIELD)

SATURDAY, 25 OCTOBER 2025
NEW MEXICO MILITARY INSTITUTE

0600 REVEILLE
0620 BRC W/FORMATION
0700 – 0830 CROSS SABERS BREAKFAST (GOLD ROOM) (INVITE ONLY)
0800-1000 ALUMNI REGISTRATION INFORMATION (DLC)
0800 GOSS DRILL TEAM EXHIBITIONS (BRONCO PLAZA)
0800 – 0930 CORPS FRI (ALL BARRACKS CLOSED TO VISITORS)
0900 CHANGE OF FLAME GUARD (BRONCO PLAZA)
0930 – 1000 ALUMNI TOUR OF ROOMS (HAGERMAN 1ST STOOP ONLY)
1015 CORPS FORMS FOR PARADE
1015 – 1030 HONORED CLASSES FORM FOR ALUMNI MARCH (BRONCO PLAZA)
1030 – 1135 ALUMNI HONORED CLASS MARCH AND HOMECOMING PARADE (STAPP PARADE FIELD)
1150 DRC W/FORMATION AND MARCH BY
1200-1300 FARLEY'S ALUMNI MEET & GREET
1300-1530 ALUMNI TAIL GATE WOOL BOWL PARKING LOT (FOOD TRUCKS)
1330 CORPS FORMS FOR MARCH-ON (WOOL BOWL)
1340 CORPS OF CADETS MARCH ON FOR FOOTBALL GAME (WOOL BOWL)
TBD FOOTBALL GAME TBD (WOOL BOWL)

(THIS SUPERSEDES ALL OTHER SCHEDULES – SUBJECT TO CHANGE)
6/13/2025





Forging Tomorrow's Officers: Inside NMMI's ROTC Mini Camp

Each summer, a group of determined students arrive at New Mexico Military Institute to begin a journey that accelerates their path to leadership in the U.S. Army. This year, 38 cadets are participating in the SROTC Mini Camp, which serves as the critical starting point for those enrolled in NMMI's Early Commissioning Program (ECP).

While traditional ROTC students are commissioned in four years, NMMI's nationally recognized ECP model challenges cadets to reach that standard in half the time. Cadets in the ECP program are commissioned as second lieutenants in just two years. This accelerated model demands discipline, structure, and an immediate commitment to leadership. The Mini Camp marks the beginning of that accelerated journey.

Cadets come from across the country, many fresh out of high school, and most without prior military experience. Over the course of four days, they are immersed in the foundational elements of military life, including Army rank structure, military customs and courtesies, an overview of the U.S. Armed Forces and U.S. Army, officer branch orientations, and a briefing on the Simultaneous Membership Program (SMP), which allows cadets to serve in the National Guard or Army Reserve while earning a monthly stipend.

Practical training is a major focus. Cadets are introduced to land navigation, basic map reading, marching fundamentals, and weapons familiarization. Physical conditioning is also central to the experience, with cadets completing the Army Fitness Test (AFT) and learning how to carry a rucksack properly.

One of the most engaging and transformative components of the camp is the Leadership Reaction Course (LRC), a series of scenario-based challenges designed to foster communication, problem-solving, group cohesion, and adaptability. Cadets are placed in teams, given missions with time constraints and physical limitations, and must collaborate to reach a solution. After each scenario, they participate in guided reflection to discuss leadership dynamics and team performance.

Throughout the camp, cadets are placed in leadership roles. The structure of the ECP and the NMMI Corps of Cadets ensures that they learn by doing, developing responsibility, accountability, and self-discipline in real time. This culture of active leadership, reinforced daily at NMMI, distinguishes the Institute from a typical college environment.

What makes this experience especially meaningful is the environment in which it takes place. At NMMI, cadets are immersed in a setting built for structure, leadership development, and academic excellence. They receive the resources, mentorship, and facilities that align with the standards of Army officer training, ensuring they are equipped for success from day one.

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This is where alumni and friends of the Institute play an essential role. The continued advancement of programs like the ROTC program depends on ongoing investments, whether through scholarships, facility upgrades, program development, or cadet support. The opportunities made possible here, including programs like Mini Camp, represent NMMI's larger mission to prepare ethical, effective leaders for the military and beyond.

After cadets complete their two years at NMMI, they move on to earn their bachelor's degrees at schools across the country, many at institutions with strong ROTC programs like UNM, NMSU, Norwich, and Syracuse. The foundation built at NMMI stays with them. Their success is a reflection not just of their own determination, but of the environment, structure, and support that made it possible.

NMMI's commitment to leadership development is stronger than ever, and that strength grows through engagement from the entire NMMI family.

Writer: Natalie Perez



[WEBSITE: ARMY ROTC](#)

[WEBSITE: ALUMNI](#)

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Two NMMI Alumni Honored with Service Bricks



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Four NMMI Cadets Complete Advanced Camp with Alumnus COL Williams





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2025 Spring Sports Recap

It was another very successful season for the athletic programs at the New Mexico Military Institute that completed their competition during the 2025 Spring Semester

Below is a quick recap with some of the highlights from last semester, starting with the junior college squads.

Under 13-year Head Coach Chris Cook, Bronco Baseball conducted a 24-30 overall record with a 12-24 mark in conference play. In 54 games, NMMI produced 356 runs and hit 62 home runs – ranked No. 34 in the nation. Tallying 30 triples the Broncos ranked No. 4 in the country.

In his 30th year with the program, Head Coach Sean Schooley led the Bronco Basketball program to an 8-21 overall record with a 3-13 mark in WJCAC play. Guard David Popa was named a 2025 Western Junior College Athletic Conference Honorable Mention after averaging a team-high 13.6 points per game. Forward Justin Bramao ranked No.6 in the WJCAC in total rebounds with 118.

Under first-year Head Coach Jonathan Allen, The Bronco Golf team ended the year with a 14th place finish at the NJCAA National Championships in Newton, KS, where they finished top-4 in pars with 215. At the start of the 2024-25 season, NMMI was ranked No. 33 in October and ended the year ranked No. 21 in the nation. NMMI took first place as a team at the USW Spring Invitational in April, where Tyler Jackson took first place individually.

Under third-year Head Coach Brad Blackwell, the Colt Baseball team was crowned as the 2025 NMAA Class 3A Baseball Champions. Making NMMI winners of 2 of the last four possible state titles in Class 3A baseball. The Colts boosted an impressive 21-6 overall record with an 11-1 mark in district play. The Colts ended the year on a 13-game win streak. Crowned as district champs, the Colts earned a No.1 seed in the state championships. Tegin

Maloney broke the NMAA State Record with 387 strikeouts in a career after striking out 126 batters his senior year.

Under seventh-year Head Coach Connor Williamson, Colt Basketball earned a No. 12 seed in the NMAA Class 3A State Championships with a 16-13 overall record. The Colts suffered a 48-45 first-round loss to No.5 Bosque. In district play the Colts went 4-2. On Friday, Feb. 21 NMMI put up a season-high 91 points in a 91-55 win over Dexter.

Under first-year Head Coach Samuel Garza, the Colt Golf team took third place as a team at the NMAA State Golf Championships in Farmington, NM. Senior, Mason Hicks was crowned the 2025 Individual Champion for the second consecutive year. The 2x State Champ finished the second 18 with a four-over-par 76 (144 total) to earn his second title in as many seasons.

Under Head Coach Jan Olesinski, who entered his 38th year at NMMI, Boy's and Girls' Track and Field competed in eight meets in total. As a team, the Boys placed second at the NMAA State Championships with 54.5 total points, where they placed first in the 4x100 meter relay with a time of 44.08. The girls earned a seventh-place finish in the 4x200 meter relay with a time of 2:03 seconds. Individually, Senior Cohen Tomasits took home the first-place medal in the 100-meter dash with a time of 10.99 seconds. He earned second place in the 200 meter dash. Tomasits completed the trio of medals with a third place finish in the long jump. In the 400 meter dash, Junior Miguel Garcia also took first home the first place medal with a time of 50.83 seconds. Sawyer Hull placed third in the high jump with a height of 6'2 and took the second place medal in the javelin toss. Sam McGargish finished fourth in the shot put while freshmen Luke Tomasits placed fourth in the pole vault.

Under second-year Head Coach Steven Huebner the Colt Tennis Team finished 3-1 in district play with a 5-3 overall record. As a team, NMMI finished first at the NMMI Quad in February to get the season started. The boys' team earned a bid in the 2025 State Tennis Championships in Albuquerque, NM. Individually, Brett Doke and Leonardo Perez qualified as individuals at the state championships. The pair each earned a first round win before stumbling in the quarterfinals. The Girls' team finished 1-3 in district play with a 1-6 overall mark and placed 2nd at the NMMI Quad On February 28. Under second-year Head Coach Lawrence Hall, Lady Colt Basketball finished the year with a 3-13 overall record. Sophomore guard Katylyn Lackey was named to All-District the 1st team. The Lady Colts defeated Dexter 57-52 at home on Feb.11 – Dexter was ranked No. 8 in the state in class 3A at the time.

Under Head Coach Jan Olesinski, who entered his 38th year at NMMI, Boy's and Girls' Swimming competed in four meets during the regular season, but did not manage to qualify as a team or individually for the NMAA State Championships.

Writer: Geoff Gunn

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Introducing the 2025-2026 Challenge Coin and New Car Emblem!

As we look ahead to another incredible school year, we're excited to unveil two symbols of pride, tradition, and unity for our school community: 2025-2026 Challenge Coin and Car Emblem.

The 2025-2026 Challenge Coin: A Tradition of Honor

This year's challenge coin continues a cherished tradition—celebrating the spirit, values, and legacy of our institution, Duty, Honor, and Achievement. Designed with purpose, the 2025-2026 coin features Stack symbol, boldly combined with the New Mexico state flag. The reverse side honors the heart of cadet life with the image of a cadet saluting, set against the backdrop of the historic Sally

Port. The Centennial Flame stands beside the cadet—an enduring symbol of duty and respect. Whether kept as a personal keepsake, traded among peers, or given in recognition, the challenge coin represents dedication, resilience, and school pride.

The New Car Emblem: Ride with Pride

We're also proud to introduce an updated car emblem for the 2025-2026 school year! Sleek, durable, and designed to stand out, this new emblem is a perfect way to show your support wherever the road takes you.

Rooted in tradition and driven by excellence, we step into the New Year committed to the core values: Duty, Honor, and Achievement.



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35th NMMI Trail Ride Was a Triumphant Roar!

Oh, what a ride it was! The dust has settled, the boots are (mostly) clean, and the echoes of laughter still ring through the mountains! We are absolutely thrilled, relieved, and bursting with joy to report that the 35th NMMI Trail Ride was an overwhelming success! It was truly magnificent to gather at the beautiful Camp of the Tall Pines once again, and we are already buzzing with excitement about returning to this perfect venue next year!

This year's Trail Ride was a testament to great food, fantastic fun, and the sheer joy of being out in the mountains. From invigorating horseback rides to thrilling ATV adventures, every moment was packed with camaraderie and breathtaking scenery. And speaking of unforgettable nights, our inaugural CMA Awards Night was a dazzling hit! A huge congratulations to our well-deserved winners:

- Cutest Couple in the Country Scene: Seth and Kathy Orell – you two are simply adorable!
- Biggest Belt Buckle: Gregg Pebbles – that buckle truly sparkled!
- Boot Scootin' Boogie Award: Denise Kawas – you owned that dance floor!
- Paparazzi's Favorite: Bill Eidenire – always camera-ready!
- Southern Charm Award: Tim Whalen – a true gentleman of the country scene!

The competition was fierce, but the sportsmanship was even greater at our Cornhole Tournament, with the champion title proudly going to Richard Perryman!

Beyond the fun, the heart of our Trail Ride lies in giving back. We are immensely proud to announce the success of our live and silent auctions, which raised significant funds dedicated to cadet scholarships. Every bid, every contribution helps shape the future leaders of NMMI, and for that, we are profoundly grateful.

Thank you to everyone who joined us and made this year's Trail Ride a phenomenal experience. We eagerly look forward to seeing you all again next year for even more mountain magic and meaningful impact!

Onwards and upwards!

Writer: Leslie Palombi

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Leave a Lasting Legacy at NMMI

Honor your legacy. Celebrate a loved one. Inspire future generations.

Tribute Giving Opportunities for Alumni and Friends of NMMI

Help pave the way for future cadets and show your lasting support through one of our tribute gift options. Whether you're honoring a loved one, commemorating your own journey, or celebrating a class, these meaningful dedications become permanent parts of the NMMI campus.



Alumni Brick – \$40 each

Installed in Troop Zia, each brick includes a personalized message and is a visible tribute to your NMMI story.

- Customize with names, dates, and short dedications (spaces & punctuation count).
- An order of bricks is placed once 10 bricks are ordered; allow 3 months for installation.
- Choose your Troop in Zia Plaza for placement: Alpha, Bravo, Charlie, Delta, Echo, etc.



Flagpole Plaque – \$1,000 (side/back) | \$1,500 (front)

Honor a legacy with a 24" x 12" plaque placed around a State Flagpole in Zia Plaza.

- 60-character inscription included (additional text incurs extra fee).
- Placement options: Front, Right, Rear, or Left.
- Placement options may be limited for some states
- Payment plans available (up to 12 months).

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Leave a Lasting Legacy at NMMI

Honor your legacy. Celebrate a loved one. Inspire future generations.




Alumni Bench – \$3,500

Leave a prominent and enduring tribute with a granite bench placed in the NMMI Alumni Plaza.

- Includes a 60-character inscription on an attached plaque.
- Zia Plaza options are available in the following quadrants: North, East, South, or West.
- 12-month payment plan available.

How to Order:

 **Call: (575) 624-8246**

 **Email: adv_off@nmmi.edu.**

 **NMMI Alumni Relations, 101 West College Blvd, Roswell, NM 88201**

 **Order online at: WIXNMMIAlumnirelations.com**



TAPS

SAMUEL	I.	EPSTEIN	2014	JC	15-JUN-25
PAUL	R.	GALLOWAY	1966	JC	03-JUN-25
AURELIUS		HOUSTON	1982	JC	25-MAY-25
DANIEL	J.	KRAMER	2005	HS	20-MAY-25



**Alumni Reported Deceased
June 30, 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.”**

