

# 2020 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARDS

A celebration of accomplishment



# Message from the Dean

Welcome to the 2020 University of New Mexico School of Engineering Distinguished Alumni Awards celebration.

Although due to the current circumstances, we cannot meet in person this year, this does not in any way diminish the accomplishments of this year's impressive slate of honorees. Among the 2020 winners are engineers who have and are currently making a difference in their respective fields all around the globe, from academia to the government, and even leading successful engineering-related



companies that are developing and improving our health-care delivery. They have served U.S. presidents, survived wars, started businesses, managed teams, mentored students, made discoveries, and even acted in plays and have been accomplished polo players!

As dean, I am always proud to hear how the School of Engineering has impacted the lives of our alumni. Often, the most important lessons our students have taken away from their classes in engineering and computer science are not technical ones, but ones with a broader impact. We are known for teaching students how to think, how to dissect and conquer problems, how to collaborate with others, and how to see a challenging project to a successful end. Many of our students (including some of this year's honorees) were not sure if they were cut out for engineering school when they began. But their experience with UNM Engineering taught them that indeed they were, thanks to their hard work and the guidance of many dedicated staff and faculty. That impact is what we strive for in the School of Engineering — transforming lives for not just the betterment of the student and their families, but for society as a whole.

In reading their stories, I hope you are in some way inspired by these amazing honorees. It is our hope to be able to have an in-person celebration in 2021, with these honorees as well as the 2021 winners, in a "super celebration."

In the meantime, I wish you health and happiness, and thank you for supporting the School of Engineering!

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Christos Christodoulou". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

**Christos Christodoulou**

Jim and Ellen King Dean of Engineering and Computing

# Thank you to our 2020 Distinguished Alumni Award selection committee

**Charles Fleddermann**, associate dean for academic affairs and community engagement

**Edl Schamiloglu**, associate dean for research and innovation

**Jennifer Troup**, Alumni Leadership Board member; recipient of 2016 Distinguished Alumni Award; B.S., M.S., Ph.D., Nuclear Engineering.

**Jake Hollowell**, Alumni Leadership Board member; recipient of 2018 Distinguished Young Alumni Award; B.S., Electrical and Computer Engineering.

**Brady Key**, Alumni Leadership Board member; B.S., M.S., Computer Science.

# J.T. Michelson

## Chemical and Biological Engineering

J.T. Michelson earned a degree in engineering, but his impressive career in management and civic service might suggest that he was a business major.

The Albuquerque native chose to study chemical engineering because he always enjoyed chemistry. He received his bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from UNM in 1962.

While at UNM, he wasted no time supplementing his engineering curriculum with courses in business and accounting. His involvement in business started early, thanks to the family business, Bell Trading



Post (later called Sunbell Corporation). The company produced items such as silver and turquoise jewelry, copper products and moccasins. He learned the basics of business working there in high school and college.

After UNM, he earned an MBA from Harvard Business School in 1964, he then returned to Bell Trading Post, holding positions at Sunbell until 1982. He also was board of directors and secretary of the board for Lovelace Health Plan from 1972 to 1982.

For six months in 1982, he left New Mexico after he was selected for a unique opportunity to serve on President Reagan's private sector survey on cost control, where he coordinated the activities of 15 task forces. He said his most vivid memory of that time was not about the task at hand, however: "I played polo on the Washington Mall" (a sport he played for 48 years).

In 1982, after working in Washington, D.C., he became vice president for planning and development for Lovelace Medical Foundation and was also vice president of the Western region/managed care officer for EQUITOR Health Plan until 1987. Later he was appointed vice president and chief operating officer for Lovelace Health Plan and Lovelace Medical Center. In 1989 he purchased Sun Country Industries and was vice president of the company, an aerospace-related manufacturer, until its sale in 2006. He is now chairman of the board for Vibrant NDT and a board member of Lotus Leaf Coatings.

His community involvement has been just as impressive. He was the chair of the New Mexico Angels for a decade and has been a trustee of Lovelace Medical Foundation, a member of the United Community Fund, on the advisory council for the UNM Anderson School of Management, on the advisory board for the Albuquerque Symphony Orchestra, held various leadership positions with Manzano Day School, and was a founding member and president of the New Mexico HMO Association.

Although Michelson never worked as a chemical engineer, he said the education he received from the School of Engineering was key to his future success.

"In my sophomore year, I had Professor Castonguay, and I remember him going to the board and writing the four steps involved to solve a problem — what is given, what is wanted, determining the basis of calculation and coming up with a solution," he said. "I used that method the rest of my life."

He has two grown daughters, Laura and Lynette, four grandchildren, and enjoys life with his partner of 15 years, Loretta, their four dogs, a cat, peacocks and a horse. Although he no longer plays polo, he does enjoy horse riding.

# Phillip Melville

## Civil, Construction and Environmental Engineering

During his 98 years on this planet, there are a lot of things that Phillip Melville should not have been able to do but did anyway.

For one, he and his family escaped from Europe as the winds of World War II were brewing. The Nazi Germans were beginning to invade parts of France, where Melville and his family lived. He recounts his incredible journey to the United States in a manuscript he wrote in 2013 called "My War Time Journey to New Mexico." His travels across Europe, the Atlantic and to the shores of the United States and eventually across the country to Albuquerque, New Mexico, took a lot of good faith and good fortune.

Secondly, his admittance to UNM should never have happened, but did, thanks to the efforts of then-UNM President Zimmerman, as well as some well-placed family connections. Melville's father had a brother, Leopold, who lived in Albuquerque. After Pearl Harbor, the threat of a world war was apparent, and Phillip's father was looking for a safe haven for his son, who was of military age but also had an interest in engineering school. Leopold's wife was part of the prominent Ilfeld family in New Mexico and had the connections to contact President Zimmerman. After the president knew of the plight of Phillip, he made things happen. He put on an official piece of paper that Phillip was accepted as an engineering student (he wasn't) and that he had a full fellowship (he didn't). But coming from President Zimmerman, on UNM letterhead, what hadn't been possible before was now reality. Phillip was in. Additional contacts his uncle had helped Phillip and his family get the needed documents to leave France and enter the U.S.



"That was a pretty bold decision," on Zimmerman's part, Melville said. "It saved me."

After earning his bachelor's degree from UNM in 1944, he headed to Purdue University to earn a master's degree. After earning his degree in 1945, he found employment in Virginia, and worked as a civil engineer in the area the rest of his life. He was a research engineer for the Virginia Department of Highways, working on cement and concrete technology, and in 1954, he joined the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in as a civilian civil engineer in the Office of the Chief of Engineers in Washington, D.C. During the Cold War years, he worked on research and development of Air Force base expansion worldwide, and in cooperation with engineers of the Army Waterways Experiment Station, applied U.S. airfield pavement concepts to NATO counterparts. Later, he joined the Federal Aviation Administration to implement airfield pavement concepts to civil airports when larger airplanes began to be introduced.

He also was chief international officer for airports, working with the International Civil Aviation Organization of the United Nations in Canada. In addition, he is a retired P.E. (professional engineer), a Fellow of both the American Society of Civil Engineers and the National Society of Professional Engineers, and has been inducted into the Order of the Engineer. He also has published about 30 technical papers.

Melville enjoys learning new things, which now includes taking a weekly Italian class, even though he says, "I'm not a very good student." After retirement ("I retired many times," he said), he enjoyed traveling, and especially appreciated the art and culture of Italy. "I've always tried to keep busy." He's also been involved in various activities, such as establishing a U.S. organization to promote manufacturers of current and future airside hardware, becoming a part-time instructor for candidates of the P.E. exam, and serving as vice president of Sacatec, Inc.

He was heartbroken by the lengthy illness and death of his wife, Sheila, in 2011, but otherwise considers himself extremely fortunate. He has two daughters, Anne and Laura, and four grandchildren and is grateful to have had an enjoyable and productive life. "I hope I have done some good."

# Thomas L. Paez

## Civil, Construction and Environmental Engineering

When Thomas Paez first started at UNM, he thought he wanted to be an architect. But a few classes in, he realized that the world of structural dynamics was his passion and switched into civil engineering.

He earned both his bachelor's and master's degree in civil engineering from UNM in 1971, such an enthusiastic student that he was able to finish both degrees at the end of his senior year. And he wasted no time in applying for doctoral programs around the country, applying at MIT, University of California at Berkeley, UNM, University of Illinois, Caltech and Purdue.

"Almost all of them sent me an application for an international student because they thought I was from Mexico," he said.



He ultimately chose Purdue, even though it was the only school not to give him a fellowship offer. He selected Purdue because his advisor at UNM, Jim Yao, had just taken a job there, so he and his wife headed to West Lafayette, Indiana, finishing his Ph.D. in 23 months.

The Albuquerque native, by then married to his high school sweetheart from St. Pius X High School, Eileen, moved back from the Midwest to take a position at Kaman Sciences Corporation in Colorado. In 1975, he accepted an offer to join Sandia National Laboratories in the engineering mechanics department. He was persuaded to leave the Labs in 1977 to return to teaching at UNM, where he worked his way up to associate professor. He continued his research and had the opportunity to serve as an advisor to six Ph.D. students and 10 master's students before deciding

to return to Sandia in 1984.

He continued at Sandia until retirement in 2009, first working in the experimental dynamics department, then later the structural dynamics department and the validation and uncertainty quantification department. There, he conducted research and development in random vibration and probabilistic structural dynamics and completed a project started by Dave Smallwood, the first software program to maintain closed-loop control of multiple-input-multiple-output random vibration tests.

Since 2009, he's been retired in name only, keeping busy with various projects and consulting activities with the Air Force Research Laboratory and Sandia. And though he is passionate about research, he enjoys interacting with students, even today. "I love teaching," he said. "I've taught 120 to 140 short courses in 32 years, and four so far this year."

He's worked in academia, private industry and government — all very different positions — but he has grown from all his experiences. "I've been happy with every single job I've had," he said.

Paez credits many professors, advisors and mentors at UNM for his success — Gerald May, Roy Johnson, Cornie Hulsbos and Fred Ju among them.

"I wasn't a very good student in high school. I was more interested in pursuing my wife," he said. "The teachers at UNM were patient in working with me. I don't think I would have stayed in school without them."

He and his wife have two grown sons and a granddaughter, Reina, who is studying biochemistry at Oregon State University. In his spare time, he enjoys hiking, biking and traveling.

# Barbara Lopez

## Computer Science

Barbara Lopez is not the kind of person who likes to sit still. From the time she was born, she's been on the move ever since.

Her father was in the military, so she got a taste of traveling early. Her family roots are in Albuquerque, but she was born in Arizona, and when Barbara was growing up, the family moved to Spain, Virginia, Panama, Argentina, Washington, D.C., then finally back to Albuquerque.

Lopez described herself as a self-motivated student, always striving for good grades. But even though she excelled in school and especially in math, she did not immediately seek higher education, choosing instead to take a job with the government. She was married and working, and it was actually her boss who suggested that she pursue a degree, so she began taking computer science courses at UNM while working full time.



She admitted that pursuing a degree was hard, especially while continuing to work, but her dedication and hard work got her through, and she earned her bachelor's degree in computer science in 1986.

"My degree in computer science from UNM changed my life and allowed me to have a rich and varied career in IT," she said.

After graduating, she worked in a variety of positions through the years, including for Science and Engineering Associates, the Air Force Research Laboratory, the director of IT infrastructure at PNM, and the senior director of IT at the New Mexico Gas Company. Currently, she is IT program manager at PNM Resources.

Lopez gravitates to leadership roles – often managing a mostly-male staff – and believes in taking a personal interest in each employee in order to find their unique talents. "I like to get the best out of people. I've always been good at that."

She is dedicated to her career in IT management, but she's equally passionate about a long list of community service, mentoring, volunteer, and networking groups she's involved with. From book clubs, wine clubs, golf, soccer, and kickboxing to serving on the board of the New Mexico Technology Council, the UNM School of Engineering Alumni Advisory Board, and the Domestic Violence Resource Center, her volunteer and community service list is long. She has also mentored girls for the YWCA TechGYRLS afterschool program and at Bellehaven Elementary School Science Fair and has volunteered in numerous other capacities in the community such as Start Up Weekend Women, Albuquerque Reads, Junior Achievement, Roadrunner Food Bank, Best Buddies, and the American Youth Soccer Organization. "I like helping people succeed," she says. She was the also the keynote speaker for the fall 2019 School of Engineering Convocation.

And when she's not busy with all of that, she continues to love travel. Even in leaner times, she saved money for this purpose. So far, she's been to 23 countries, including a memorable trip to Paris in summer 2019 to see the Women's World Cup, where she traveled and saw the city by herself, which she said was life-changing. "It was so cool to have all that independence."

When COVID-19 hit and most of her activities, events and travel came to a half, she decided to try something new: going back to UNM for an online psychology class. She said it's a way to connect (although virtually) and stimulate her brain. "It brings me back to being a student," she said.

She also is an avid Lobo fan, collecting a wide array of Lobo gear. Barbara has three grown sons in Colorado and a granddaughter.

# Atul Bhatnagar

## Electrical and Computer Engineering

When Atul Bhatnagar arrived in Albuquerque, New Mexico in July 1981, it was his first time in the United States. In fact, it was his first flight ever — from New Delhi to Frankfurt, Germany; to Atlanta; then to Albuquerque. He knew no one and owned very little. “My net worth was negative,” he recalls.

But soon, he would be embarking on a fantastic educational journey that would change his life.

Bhatnagar earned a bachelor’s degree in electrical engineering from Birla Institute of Technology and Science in India, but made the trek to the United States for graduate studies, choosing UNM for its excellent reputation in academics and faculty in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering. “They had a great microprocessor lab under Dr. Knudsen. I wanted to be a TA in that state-of-the-art lab.”

He received his master’s degree in electrical and computer engineering from UNM in 1982 and since 2013 has been president and CEO of Cambium Networks, a public company whose goal is to create wireless communication products and help eliminate global digital divide by providing broadband connectivity in over 150 countries.



Bhatnagar said that his time at UNM prepared him to be the leader he is today. While at UNM, he also remembers being inspired by Professor Shlomo Karni, Professor Charles Crowley and Professor Delores Etter. “I give UNM credit for the development of who I am today,” he said.

That education allowed him to jump immediately into the rapidly evolving high-technology sector. In 1982, he joined Tektronix in Oregon, then moved into a variety of positions in Silicon Valley after 1985. He was with Hewlett-Packard Company until 2000 in many senior management roles. From 2000 to 2006, he was vice president and general manager at Nortel Networks in Silicon Valley leading Enterprise Data Networks division. He then made the jump to Ixia Communications, where he served as president and CEO.

Cambium’s mission is to “connect the unconnected” in the world via affordable broadband wireless solutions, especially in developing countries. Under his leadership, Cambium IPO’s was listed on the Nasdaq, under symbol CMBM, in June 2019. The company has more than \$250 million in annual revenue and employs about 700 in the U.S., Europe, Asia and South America.

Looking back on his career, he said he has made continuous learning the main focus of his journey. “It has been a tremendous journey from engineer to CEO,” he said. “I never think about goals, but about skills, and every three years, I keep adding a new skill. “The world is changing so fast, you have to keep educating and developing yourself continuously.”

And he has done just that. In addition to his two degrees, he earned an Innovation and Entrepreneurship Certificate from Stanford University in 2015 and also took executive development courses at Harvard Business School in 2015 and 2016 earning a certificate in effective board management.

Bhatnagar is married to Ranjana, who is a graduate of Pacific Oaks College in Pasadena, Calif., with a master’s degree, specializing in early childhood education. She teaches at San Jose City College. The couple has five children: two sons, Ashish and Munish, and three daughters, Vaishali, Vasudha and Radhika.

In his spare time, he enjoys gardening, going for long walks with his dog Kona, and using a telescope at night to gaze at the sky.

# Andrew Halasz

## Mechanical Engineering

Anyone who knew Andrew Halasz when he was an engineering student at UNM probably wouldn't be surprised that he turned into a successful businessman.

In high school, he was running a landscaping business, and while a student at UNM, he was running a painting business.

"I always had a drive to build a business," he said. "A high proportion of CEOs have a combination of business and engineering degrees."

Halasz, who received a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from UNM in 1981, is the founder and CEO of Vizzia Technologies, a Santa Fe-based healthcare technology business he founded in 2005. The company helps healthcare organizations improve their operational efficiency and has helped hospitals save millions of dollars in expenses and improve patient care. In August of this year, Vizzia was recognized as one of America's fastest-growing private companies on the Inc.



5000 list for the third year in a row. Only 10% of companies make the list three years in a row. Halasz also funded and created the Vizzia Internet of Things lab in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering and made another investment this past year to staff the lab with a full-time lab manager.

He started his career at Phillips Petroleum in the plastics industry as a technical sales engineer, which allowed him to combine his UNM engineering degree with his experience in high school when he worked as a night-shift supervisor in a plastics factory. He later joined General Electric, where his career progressed from sales to marketing, product management and into senior management positions. He completed the Advanced Management Program at Harvard Business School and then became chief information officer and senior vice president of global operations for Recall Corporation, a global document management company, before starting his company.

He said having an engineering background was helpful in business because it helps you break down problems and solve them. "That skill is helpful no matter what part of business you work in."

He was influenced to go into mechanical engineering for two primary reasons: he liked the tactile nature of that branch of engineering, and his father was a mechanical engineer and inventor who holds many patents on the design of the aluminum can and the various machines that make them.

He has very fond memories of his time at UNM — some academic, some personal. He admits the social side dominated his early years (when he pledged the fraternity Phi Gamma Delta), but he gained some lifelong skills (and met his wife, Kerry).

"I was very shy coming into UNM, but my time here allowed me to not only get a great education but also helped me develop my social skills. I'm still in active contact with my pledge class, who are lifelong friends," he said. "The engineering curriculum was demanding and required me to focus in order to succeed. Each time I solved a tough problem, it gave me more confidence which also helped bring me out of my shell."

Along with his wife, he has three daughters, Erin, Sarah and Katy, and four grandchildren. He enjoys woodworking and playing golf.

# Jim E. Morel

## Nuclear Engineering

Jim Morel was drawn to Albuquerque by two things: the Air Force Weapons Laboratory (now the Air Force Research Laboratory) at Kirtland Air Force Base and the UNM nuclear engineering program.

He earned a bachelor's degree in mathematics in 1972 from Louisiana State University, and through his participation in ROTC, was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Air Force the day he graduated. He was given a delay from active duty to attend graduate school, and received a master's degree in nuclear engineering from LSU in 1974. He then sought a delay to pursue a Ph.D., but he was told that he would have to go on active duty. After some investigation, he decided that



an assignment at AFWL would be ideal since it was an outstanding laboratory and he could pursue a Ph.D. in nuclear engineering at UNM during his assignment. He arrived in Albuquerque in September 1974 as a nuclear research officer at AFWL, enrolled at UNM in January 1975, and started a Ph.D. working with then-professor Ron Knief. After a couple of years, he moved on to a position at Sandia National Laboratories.

He said he greatly appreciates the support of his supervisors at both AFWL and Sandia for his pursuit of a Ph.D., as well as the fact that the nuclear engineering department did everything possible to accommodate graduate students who worked full time.

Morel said he wanted to be a physicist since he was 8 years old and dreamed of working at Los Alamos. But the aerospace industry crash in the 1970s meant that no one was hiring, so he switched his focus to nuclear power. After earning his Ph.D. from UNM in 1979, he stayed on at Sandia until 1984, when he switched to Los Alamos National Laboratory, where he rose up the ranks over the years, eventually becoming a group leader and senior staff member. While conducting research in radiation transport, neutron transport and charged-particle transport, he also made UNM history during his years at Los Alamos, becoming the first National Laboratory Professor at UNM in 2004.

He then took an academic position at Texas A&M (TAMU) in College Station. He is now the director of the Texas A&M Center for Large Scale Scientific Simulations (CLASS), as well as the director for the Center for Exascale Radiation Transport (CERT). CLASS promotes multi-disciplinary computational research collaborations across TAMU, as well as collaborations other universities and national laboratories. CERT is one of six centers in the nation funded by the Predictive Science Academic Alliance Program (PSAAP-II) of the National Nuclear Security Administration. CERT performs predictive science research relating to massively-parallel thermal radiation transport calculations at the exascale level.

His list of honors and accomplishments during his career has been extensive, including receiving the LANL Distinguished Performance Award in 1992, the Department of Energy Weapons Program Award of Excellence in 1994, becoming a Fellow of the American Nuclear Society in 2010, and receiving the Gerald C. Pomraning Memorial Award (Mathematics and Computation Division) from the American Nuclear Society in 2017.

Having worked in both in the national labs and academia, he said he enjoys academic work because of its many rewards. In addition to doing innovative research (he said he is most proud of his work in radiation transport), he likes most of all inspiring new generations. "It's very rewarding to work with young people," he said. "It keeps you young. Every time you teach a course, no matter how many times you have taught it, you learn something new. This has always amazed me."

His hobbies include golf and scuba diving.

# Joseph Costantine

## Distinguished Young Alumni Award

One could say it was UNM's world-famous reputation in electromagnetics that attracted Joseph Costantine to graduate school in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering.

Costantine, a native of Lebanon, knew from the time he was in high school that he wanted to go into a technical field. He earned his bachelor's degree in electrical, electronics, computer and communication engineering from the Lebanese University in 2004, then went on to earn a master's degree in computer and communication engineering from the American University of Beirut in 2006.



It was in 2006 when he was in Munich, Germany on a scholarship as an exchange student finishing his master's degree where he discovered he wanted to earn a Ph.D. There, he met a professor named Max Costa (now in Brazil) who had taught at UNM and was at the time a visiting professor at the Technical University of Munich.

"He asked me if I wanted to research RF and antennas at UNM because he knew it was a good place to be. And not long after that, I received a phone call from my brother, who was in school in Cincinnati, who said I should come to UNM to get a Ph.D. because he had heard of its reputation in the electromagnetism area of research. After that phone call, I checked the ECE website and wrote an email to the chair of the department at the time, 'Prof. Chaouki Abdallah,' who replied immediately with plenty of encouragement to apply."

Costantine's Ph.D. advisor was Christos Christodoulou, now dean of the School and one of the foremost experts in reconfigurable antennas and RF. He said his time at UNM allowed him the freedom to develop both academically and personally.

"I was exposed to all kinds of ideas," he said. "I was given the responsibility to lead other graduate students and try new and innovative research directions. Christos never said no to an idea. He would say, 'Try it, study it, analyze and see how it goes.' " As a result, Costantine developed a new theory in using graph models to optimize reconfigurable antennas and arrays.

He also grew close to his graduate school family, getting involved in a lot of theater in Albuquerque. "Christos attended all of my plays," he said.

After time as a postdoctoral researcher under Christodoulou, private industry in Santa Fe and academia at California State University in Fullerton, as well as stints at Air Force Research Laboratory at Kirtland Air Force Base, he has come full circle. In 2013, he returned to his native country, where he is an associate professor of electrical and computer engineering at the American University of Beirut, which is a U.S. institution of research chartered by the state of New York.

He enjoys the field of electromagnetics because there are "a lot of practical applications in all that we do." He especially enjoys academia because it gives him a way to utilize some of his pastimes — theater and writing.

"I think I was born to be a professor," he said. "I like teaching. It's a way of expressing myself and getting students excited about electromagnetics. I can make a lot of impact, and advance technologies by inspiring young minds."

He considers his career highlights thus far as being honored this year by the World Economic Forum for his cutting-edge research and as one of the 25 scientists under the age of 40 that are tackling global health challenges, winning the Teaching Excellence Award at his institution in 2019, and winning this award. "I feel so blessed to have found UNM."

# Words to the wise

Our 2020 honorees share their wisdom about life, engineering and maintaining a balance

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“Never stop dreaming of what you can accomplish. There are no limits or boundaries. Persistence and hard work always pay off.”

— Joseph Costantine

“It’s too easy for engineering students to dive deep into their curriculum and forget that college isn’t only about coursework.

It’s important to have balance. To be successful, you have to learn how to work in teams, be social and sell your ideas.

Success isn’t just about straight A’s.”

— Andrew Halasz

“Don’t be in a hurry. Enjoy your journey. Serve and make a difference, and as you develop, be a compassionate leader.”

— Atul Bhatnagar

“It’s important to pursue your dreams. Happiness is a lot more important than money or fame.”

— Jim Morel

“Use mentors and pay it forward by mentoring others.  
The greatest leaders are the ones who help others be  
successful. Never stop learning.  
Take time to be grateful every day.”

— Barbara Lopez

“Do the best you can in the  
major you have selected. Take  
an introduction to business  
course or accounting course if  
you can. Everyone is involved  
with managing people, goals or  
objectives in business, so learning  
about business is helpful.”

— J.T. Michelson

“Study hard, take all the  
challenging classes you can as a  
student. It’s the final time in your  
life where you will be handed  
education on a platter and you  
have professors dedicated to  
making things as clear as they  
can be. Once you understand  
a subject, help others to  
understand it.”

— Thomas Paez

“Engineering is a wonderful profession, and civil  
engineers build good things. You won’t make a fortune,  
but it’s a very rewarding profession.”

— Phillip Melville

## Past recipients of the Distinguished Alumni Award

### 1989

Polle T. Zellweger

### 1993

Edward C. Yrisarri, Jr.

### 1999

Stanley Harrison

Bill Miera

\*\*Robert J. Stamm

Bipin V. Vora

\*\*F.R. Zemke

### 2000

Allen Fuhs

Stephen Mitchell

\*\*W.J. (Bill) Moulds

Anthony Tenorio

\*K. Dane Wittrup

### 2001

Nasir Ahmed

Kenneth D. Hansen

Randy E. Velarde

\*\*James Warne, Jr.

\*Bijay Rajbhandary

### 2002

Brian G. Burnett

Delores M. Etter

Richard D. Jimenez

Stephen A. Matthews

Andres C. Salazar

\*David J. Loaiza

### 2003

Jack E. Bresenham

Victor J. Chavez

\*\*Lorenzo A. (Larry)

Larranaga

Raymond J. Leopold

### 2004

\*\*Harry W. Gates

Mark D. Hoover

\*\*Burton J. Smith

\*\*Bill G. Taylor

\*\*Jack E. Thompson

\*Ray Mendez

### 2005

Sandra Begay

Ronald D. Boyd, Sr.

Larry Neely

\*Torsten Staab

### 2006

Larry W. Bickle

Samantha Lapin

Kun-Shan Lin

G. Thomas Marsh

J. Howard Mock

\*William Fahrenholtz

### 2007

Harold R. Bosch

Sajjd H. Durrani

\*\*Thomas J. Nesbitt

Heinz W. Schmitt

\*Adrian B. Chernoff

### 2015

Carol L. Adkins

L. Wayne Brasure

Michael E. Dexter

\*Antonio E. Jaramillo

J. Charles Jennett

James J. McNally

Jeff P. Van Dyke

### 2016

\*Jason W. Harrington

Roger J. Koerner

Rick L. Marquardt

Michael A. Rodriguez

Rick Russell

Douglas M. Smith

Jennifer L. Troup

### 2017

Kenneth Armijo

George S. Bosiljevac

Ireena A. Erteza

Subhash N. Shah

Joseph A. Sholtis, Jr.

Torsten Staab

\*Dimitrios E.

Anagnostou

### 2018

John A. Lopez

Richard Morales

Aleksandra Faust

Barbara Brockett

Kenneth R. Prestwich

Charles B. Watkins, Jr.

\*\*DeBow Freed

\*Jake Hollowell

### 2019

Karen M. Douglas

William M. Brown III

Brad Key

Gilbert (Gil) Herrera

Michael Emerson

Bret E. Simpkins

\*Kelly D. Hahn

*\*Denotes Distinguished Young Alumni*

*\*\*Denotes Deceased*

# WE HOPE TO CELEBRATE WITH YOU IN 2021!



Visit [engineering.unm.edu/2020daa](http://engineering.unm.edu/2020daa) for photos and videos of the 2020 honorees

