

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO
SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING PRESENTS



2017



**DISTINGUISHED
ALUMNI AWARDS**



A CELEBRATION OF OUR STUDENT STARS, PAST AND FUTURE

FEATURING THE 2017 HONOREES

Dimitrios E. Anagnostou



Kenneth Armijo

Subhash N. Shah

George S. Bosiljevac



Joseph A. Sholtis, Jr.

Ireena A. Erteza

Torsten Staab



**Special speaker:
Rep. Larry
Larrañaga**

**Special award:
Joseph L.
Cecchi**



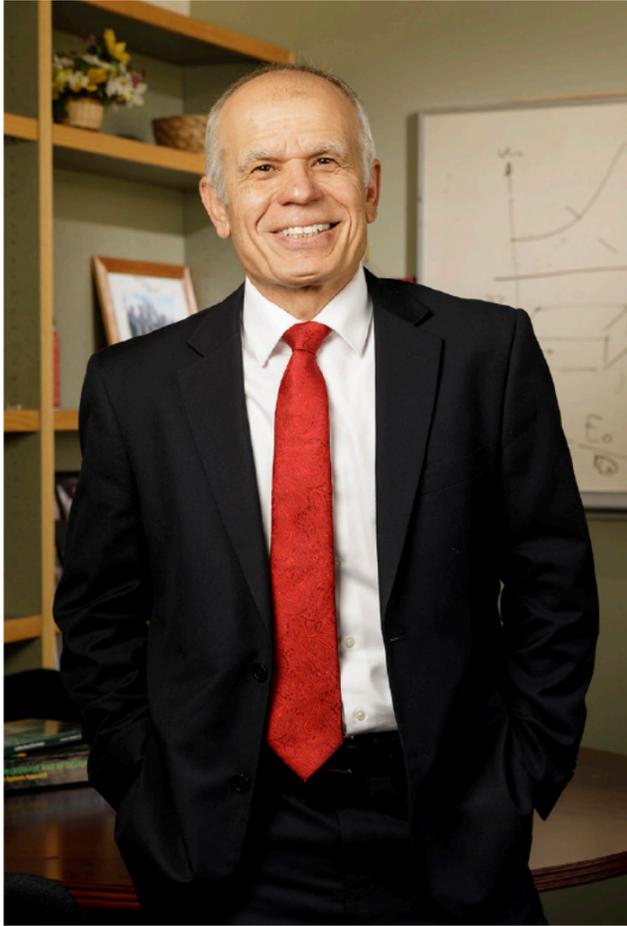
NOVEMBER 2, 2017

EMBASSY SUITES, ALBUQUERQUE

Message from the Dean

Welcome to the 2017 University of New Mexico School of Engineering Distinguished Alumni Award celebration.

It's a pleasure to see so many alumni and friends of the School here this evening, and I want to congratulate each of our seven honorees and welcome each of their guests. Also among us here this evening are a number of our past award winners, and we welcome them and their guests to this celebration.



Since becoming dean this past July, I have met many outstanding and energized alumni of the School. I highly value the insights and perspectives of those who have earned degrees from the School and who are passionate about ensuring its continued success. One of my first actions as dean was to engage the Alumni Leadership Board's leaders, as I feel a strong alumni base is crucial for the strength of the School. I thank them for their efforts, especially in regard to assisting with this event tonight.

But tonight isn't just about our alumni. It's about our students — or as we might call them, our future alumni. The theme of our event this year — "A Celebration of Our Student Stars, Past and Future" — is not by mistake. Tonight, you will see many of our top School of Engineering students in attendance. This is by design, as I feel it is important to support our students — through scholarships and providing them with opportunities for leadership, research, and networking — so that they may in turn one day be the alumni we are honoring and who are making a difference in the world. As we honor our award recipients, who have achieved greatness in research, government, academia, and industry, we also task them with being role models to the students among us tonight.

So, please, honorees, take a moment to engage with our students so that they may benefit from your excellent example. And I encourage all of you to do the same, and to also consider the many ways in which we all can support our student stars, as our current students are truly the keys to success of not just the School of Engineering, but indeed hold the answers to all of the challenges we as humans face in the world.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing 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

Program of Events

- 6-6:30 p.m. Attendees' reception
- 6:30-7:15 p.m. Welcome by master of ceremonies, Charles Fleddermann and
Dean Christos Christodoulou
- Special speaker, Rep. Larry Larrañaga 
- Musical performance by Something Major
- 7:15-8:30 p.m. **AWARD PRESENTATIONS**
-  Kenneth Armijo, Ph.D.
Department of Mechanical Engineering
- George S. Bosiljevac
Department of Civil Engineering
- Ireena A. Erteza, Ph.D. 
Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering
- Subhash N. Shah, Ph.D.
Department of Chemical and Biological Engineering
-  Joseph A. Sholtis, Jr. Lt. Col. USAF (Ret.)
Department of Nuclear Engineering
- Torsten Staab, Ph.D.
Department of Computer Science
- Dimitrios E. Anagnostou, Ph.D.
Young Alumni Award
Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering
- Special award: Joseph L. Cecchi
-  Drawing for door prizes 
- Closing Remarks
Dean Christos Christodoulou

Thanks ...

To our Distinguished Alumni Award Selection Committee

Brian Burnett

Kenneth Prestwich

Bipin Vora

And to our Alumni Leadership Board



Brian Burnett
Chair
BSCE 1978,
MSCE 1980



Michael Dexter
Vice Chair
BSME 1975, MSME
1976, EMBA 2011



Carol Adkins
BSChE 1981



Delores Etter
Ph.D. EE,
CS 1979



Tony Giancola
BSCS 1983,
MSCS 1988



**Jason
Harrington**
BSConM 1998



Gil Herrera
BSCPE 1981



Rick Marquardt
BSCE 1984,
EMBA 1991



Ron Marquez
BSChE 1979



Kenneth Prestwich
MSEE 1964



Heinz Schmitt
MSME 1962



Jennifer Troup
BSNE 1992,
MSNE 1994,
Ph.D. NE 2000



Bipin Vora
BSChE 1966,
MSChE 1967

About our master of ceremonies

Charles Fleddermann is the associate dean for academic affairs in the School of Engineering and a professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering. As associate dean, he oversees the advisement and recruitment efforts for the School, as well as serving as the School's primary representative for curriculum, academics, and ABET accreditation.



Fleddermann came to UNM in 1985 as an assistant professor of electrical and computer engineering and a joint Sandia National Laboratories-UNM professor before moving up the ranks as an associate professor in 1991 and a professor in 1998. He served as associate chair for undergraduate affairs for the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering in 2001 and acting dean of Graduate Studies for UNM in 2009. He was selected as associate dean for academic affairs for the School of Engineering in 2002. Before joining UNM, Fleddermann was an electrical design engineer for Texas Instruments.

Fleddermann's areas of expertise include engineering ethics, microelectronics, semiconductor processing methods, and circuit theory. He is the author of *Engineering Ethics*, which has been adopted by many domestic universities and has been translated into several languages. He is a senior member of IEEE, a member of the American Physical Society, and the American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE). He has also been inducted into Tau Beta Pi and Eta Kappa Nu honor societies. Fleddermann received his bachelor's degree from the University of Notre Dame in 1977, and both his master's and Ph.D. from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 1980 and 1985, respectively, all in electrical engineering.

About our special speaker

Larry A. Larrañaga has represented New Mexico's 27th District in the New Mexico House of Representatives since 1995.



He was born in Encino, New Mexico, and earned both a bachelor's and master's degree from the UNM Department of Civil Engineering in 1970 and 1979, respectively. He has owned his own ranching company since 1978 and was an owner/partner at Bohannon Huston Inc. from 1989-2005.

Larrañaga was deputy chief administrative officer and public works director for the City of Albuquerque, secretary of highways for the State of New Mexico, and a district engineer for the highway department for the State of New Mexico. He is a veteran of the U.S. Army.

Larrañaga is a member of the House Appropriations and Finance Committee, the House Agriculture and Water Resources Committee, and the House Rules and Order of Business Committee. He has been a strong supporter of both UNM and the School of Engineering throughout his career. Last year, he sponsored legislation that made matching funds possible to endow the School of Engineering deanship as the Jim and Ellen King Dean of Engineering and Computing. The endowed deanship generates extra funds yearly for the School of Engineering dean, which he can use for research or other programs to benefit students or the school. It is the first endowed deanship at UNM. He is married to Charletta, and they have two children, Alan and Pam.

Kenneth Armijo

Mechanical Engineering

Growing up in a small farming community in Sabinal, New Mexico, Kenneth Armijo probably couldn't have imagined that one day he would become a Ph.D. engineer and scientist, tackling some of the world's greatest energy challenges.



"We grew up farming in a rural area, so we had to engineer for survival," he said. "It got me interested in engineering without knowing what engineering was."

He graduated cum laude in 2004 with a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering, and a minor in mathematics from UNM, and he also earned a master's degree in 2008 and a Ph.D. in 2011 in mechanical engineering from the University of California, Berkeley.

Today, Armijo is a senior member of the technical staff at Sandia National Laboratories whose research is focused on solar programs in photovoltaics, distributed energy, and concentrating solar thermal energy technologies. His research and professional interests are in alternative energy and sustainability as they pertain to innovation, business, and policy. He holds four patents on a broad range of technologies and has over 40 publications.

His mother is an attorney and his father an entrepreneur and farmer, but he admits, "I never knew what I wanted to be when I grew up."

Nevertheless, he enrolled at UNM because he was interested in their engineering programs and opportunities. While a student, though, he became even more fascinated with engineering as a possible career and soon was involved in the School of Engineering NASA training project. Armijo said getting involved in the Formula SAE racecar program and doing a microgravity senior design project were two of his favorite memories at UNM (in addition to being a member of UNM's Spirit marching band and SoundPack, where he got to play at basketball games).

Another significant experience he had at UNM was meeting Tom Cummings, who was then with the Minority Engineering Program (now the Engineering Student Success Center) assistant director. "Tom was a big motivator and mentor for me," Armijo said. "Tom took some country kid off the farm and introduced me to the concept of graduate school. I didn't even know what came after a bachelor's degree, and without him, I never would have gotten a Ph.D."

Armijo said what he likes most about his career is that it is adaptable and ever-changing, which has allowed him to go into a variety of areas. "Engineers can do a lot. We're trained to solve problems because we learn the framework of how to solve them."

As a result, he has also gotten interested in policy and legal work, and even social work. Some projects he has been involved with include research on sustainable solar water heaters for the developing world and pesticide protection equipment for migrant farm workers. He has done field work in Guatemala, Mexico, Ecuador, and Native American reservations.

He is the recipient of numerous awards and honors, including the 2017 Principal Investigator Award from the New Mexico Small Business Assistantship for an automated PV container racking system, and in 2016 was honored as a New Mexico 40 Under 40 recipient. When not busy pursuing his varied professional interests, Armijo helps out on the family's organic chile farm and continues to enjoy playing musical instruments like the drums and trumpet.

George S. Bosiljevac

Civil Engineering

To read George Bosiljevac's job title — president of Structural Services Inc. — reveals little about the magnitude of his impact on countless buildings in Albuquerque and beyond the past 50 years. In fact, one could say that through his companies, Structural Services Inc. and previously Harwood Engineering Inc., he is responsible for quite literally holding up a good part of the region.



The list of his projects is seemingly endless. UNM Children's Hospital. Albuquerque Civic Center expansion. Intel. Cottonwood Mall. Isotopes ballpark. The federal courthouses in Albuquerque and El Paso. Albuquerque Uptown phase 1. Improvements to the Albuquerque International Sunport and its parking structure. Bernalillo County Detention Center. And numerous projects for Sandia National Laboratories, Los Alamos National Laboratory, UNM, New Mexico State University, and New Mexico Tech.

George was born and raised in Omaha, Nebraska, and while on his honeymoon trip to New Mexico, he was first introduced to UNM, where he took a campus tour while visiting his aunt and uncle. Raised in the projects, he worked in the Omaha stockyards and attended Creighton Prep for high school (a priest had sponsored and enrolled him). He joined the U.S. Marine Corps in 1952, attending college part-time at Creighton. At the time, UNM had been sending graduates to Creighton to go into dentistry, so they were very impressed to have a Creighton grad interested in UNM.

He received his bachelor's degree in civil engineering from UNM in 1960 and his master's degree in civil engineering (along with his brother, Frank) in 1967.

While still in graduate school, he designed several post-tensioned pan joist buildings at UNM, including Farris Engineering Center. After receiving his master's, he accepted a job offer with Atlas Prestressing in Virginia because of his post-tensioning experience on UNM design projects.

In 1976, he started his first construction company, Harwood Engineering Inc., which was primarily focused on post-tension foundation construction in New Mexico, California, and the Navajo Nation. In 1985, he incorporated Structural Services Inc. for the sole purpose of erecting structural steel and pre-cast concrete in the Southwestern United States.

The Bosiljevac family has been major supporters of UNM and the School of Engineering, perhaps most notably through the fact that the family has 15 degrees from UNM, with eight of them being in civil engineering.

He credits his UNM education with teaching him everything he knows about the business, and found graduate school especially valuable.

"As an undergraduate, you learn the basics, but it was in graduate school where I really feel I learned the most," he said.

At 82, he still comes into the office every day because he loves what he does.

"I've never been bored," he said.

George and his wife have three daughters and two sons, along with 10 grandchildren.

Ireena A. Erteza

Electrical and Computer Engineering

Despite embarking on what was then an even more male-dominated industry than it is today, Ireena Erteza was no stranger to the field of engineering. Her father, the late Professor Emeritus Ahmed Erteza, was a member of the faculty of the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at UNM from 1957 until his retirement in 1983.

Erteza said she grew up around campus and learned a lot of what an engineer did from her father.



“I always loved math and science, and I liked making things,” she said. “I would do things with my dad like fix cars and lawn mowers. I also helped on his work projects. He was always very supportive of me wanting to pursue engineering. Gender wasn’t important to him; talent was.”

She joined Sandia National Laboratories in 1993, where she is a Distinguished Member of the Technical Staff in the signal processing and research area. Early in her career, she worked in the areas of integrated and diffractive optics and information systems. She subsequently developed expertise in radiation effects on optical processing systems, unattended ground sensor signal processing, synthetic aperture radar (SAR) signal processing and algorithm development, and high-performance computing.

Erteza was a product of the Albuquerque Public Schools system and said that APS provided a lot of inspirational opportunities for a young woman interested in a STEM career, including doing a research project that encouraged consulting with a UNM physics professor while still in middle school and the ability to take UNM classes while in high school.

Because she was younger than her classmates, Erteza’s parents felt uneasy sending her off to college far away, so she attended UNM. She was a Presidential Scholar and National Merit Scholar and enjoyed many academic and social opportunities while a student here, including working in the thin films lab at the Center for High Technology Materials. But her favorite UNM memories were taking country-western dance classes with her friends and skateboarding inside Tapy Hall on the weekends.

While in college, she had another unique experience — being selected as a *Glamour* magazine Top 10 College Women award winner in 1986, for which she was featured in the magazine and experienced a lavish trip to New York City.

Erteza graduated summa cum laude with a bachelor’s degree in electrical engineering from UNM in 1986, then went on to Stanford University, where she would earn a master’s and Ph.D. in electrical engineering in 1988 and 1993, respectively. That’s where she also met her husband, Brian Bray, a fellow Ph.D. student, whom she married in 1990.

Erteza was named a 2017 Asian American Engineer of the Year, and has been involved for many years with volunteer activities, including mentoring students in STEM fields. She also is an avid runner, having founded a trail running group that has met weekly for 18 years.

Her advice to young women pursuing STEM fields is to “Let your interest drive what you pursue; don’t let your gender or ethnicity affect your decision. Work hard and you will succeed.”

Her daughter, Iliana Bray, graduated with a bachelor’s degree in electrical engineering with honors from Stanford and is now pursuing a Ph.D. there in electrical engineering.

Subhash N. Shah

Chemical and Biological Engineering

In the 1960s, long before students could do research on the Internet, choosing a graduate school, especially in a different country, wasn't so easy.

Subhash Shah earned his bachelor's degree in chemical engineering in India in 1968 and had friends who had traveled to UNM for chemical engineering studies, so he was interested in pursuing that route as well.



"I had no idea which university in America to go to. We had to rely on our friends' recommendations. In those days, the mail took two weeks to receive information, so it was difficult to take immediate action," he said.

When he announced he was moving to Albuquerque, New Mexico, friends thought it was Mexico, and when he arrived in Albuquerque, people often asked, "Do you ride elephants and camels in India instead of cars? "

For Shah, who had never traveled to the U.S., "UNM and Albuquerque was America for me."

He went on to earn both a master's and Ph.D. in chemical engineering from UNM.

"Albuquerque was very good to us. People were very helpful and that made our stay enjoyable. UNM prepared me well to tackle industry

problems," he said.

After graduation, he wasn't sure he wanted to pursue the academic route, so he chose industry to gain practical knowledge. For 18 years, he worked in the petrochemical engineering industry in technical labs and field, as a research engineer for Allied Chemical then as a research engineer, group supervisor, and distinguished member for Halliburton from 1976 to 1994. It was at Halliburton where he began teaching, while at the Energy Research Institute, and discovered a new passion. When an opening came for a professor at the University of Oklahoma in 1994, he was encouraged by colleagues to apply.

That marked the beginning of his second career, in academia. While at the University of Oklahoma, he held the title of Stephenson Chair, Professor and Director of Well Construction Technology Center and was named a Distinguished Lecturer by the Society of Petroleum Engineers, as well as director of the Mewbourne School of Petroleum and Geological Engineering. He was also selected as fellow of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE). During his two decades in academia, he served on a variety of editorial boards and gave presentations all over the world. In 2015, he became professor emeritus.

His hobbies include traveling and outdoor activities. He and his wife are active community volunteers and also spend four months out of the year in India, teaching, mentoring, and lending expertise to Pandit Deendayal Petroleum University (PDPU), a university in his native state there. He holds the Shell Total Chair Professor title at PDPU.

He and his wife, Jaya, have two sons, Nimesh and Monil, along with two grandsons and a granddaughter, all of whom live close to them in Dallas.

Joseph A. Sholtis, Jr.

Nuclear Engineering

Joseph A. Sholtis, Jr. hails from Monongahela, Pennsylvania — Joe Montana's hometown — but it wasn't a football star that Sholtis dreamed of becoming when he grew up. Like many who grew up during the 1950s and '60s, he had his sights set on the stars.



Entering Penn State — the first in his family to go to college — as an aerospace engineering major, he was persuaded to switch to a new undergraduate nuclear engineering program by Professor Warren Witzig, who told him of the many space uses of nuclear technology. Sholtis earned his bachelor's degree in nuclear engineering from Penn State and was commissioned in the U.S. Air Force in 1970.

His first assignment at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio, involved analysis of Soviet nuclear and space systems. In 1974, he came to the Air Force Weapons Lab at Kirtland Air Force Base in Albuquerque, where he performed safety analyses and tests to support USAF and NASA nuclear-powered space missions. While at Kirtland, he began taking graduate nuclear engineering courses at UNM. "UNM was accessible and a top-notch school for nuclear engineering — it still is," he said.

He completed his master's degree in nuclear engineering at UNM in 1977, and was assigned to Sandia Labs as a USAF Laboratory Associate. There, he continued to take Ph.D. courses in nuclear engineering at UNM while working on the liquid-metal fast breeder reactor accident delineation study, and

upgrade of Sandia's annular core research reactor.

Sholtis remembers being older than most of his grad school classmates, and using his Air Force office — and office computer — to do runs for his classes. "It was an old HP 9845, and it was slow, taking 18 hours to converge on a solution. I had to put in pauses with flashes of "Do NOT Touch!" so others in the office wouldn't interrupt my runs," he said. He remembers his time at UNM fondly, especially Professor Ronald Knief's criticality safety workshop at the D.H. Lawrence ranch near Taos, and experiments at Los Alamos's critical facilities and Sandia's reactors. "Getting a graduate degree in nuclear engineering at UNM was, without a doubt, a springboard to my career," Sholtis said.

In 1980, Sholtis went to the D.C. area as the reactor facility director and chief of the Radiation Sources Division at the Armed Forces Radiobiology Research Institute in Bethesda, Maryland. Shortly after President Reagan announced the Strategic Defense Initiative or "Star Wars" program, he was selected as program manager of the \$700 million joint Department of Defense/Department of Energy/NASA SP-100 Space Reactor Power System Development Program, also in the D.C. area. While there, he served as technical expert to the U.S. delegation to the UN's Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its Working Group on Nuclear Power in Space. In 1987, he returned to Albuquerque and the "blue suit" Air Force to get a research reactor built at McClellan Air Force Base in California for non-destructive inspection of F-15 wing sections, and to evaluate the radiological risk of NASA's Galileo and Ulysses nuclear-powered space missions for the White House.

In 1993, Sholtis retired from the Air Force as a lieutenant colonel after almost 23 years of service, but immediately formed a consulting firm, continuing on as a nuclear, aerospace and systems engineer providing design, development, nuclear safety/risk assessment support to NASA and DoE, their contractors, and laboratories. During his career, Sholtis has been involved in every U.S. space nuclear power/propulsion system development, and participated in every U.S. nuclear-powered space mission launched since 1974 — a total of 14 missions. Currently, he is involved in NASA's Mars 2020 nuclear rover mission, as well as development of future space nuclear systems. In addition, he is often asked to serve on government agency studies and National Research Council committees on issues important to the U.S. space program.

Sholtis enjoys golf, serving as a course evaluation panelist for *Golf Digest* and a committee member and rules official for the U.S. Golf Association. In addition to working local, regional, and national championships, he has run the William H. Tucker Golf Championship for UNM since 2005. Sholtis and his wife, Cheryl, have two grown children, Christian and Carole, and six grandchildren, all of whom live in Albuquerque.

Torsten Staab

Computer Science

Growing up in Germany, Torsten Staab was inspired to go into computer science via a very unusual path — winemaking.

Staab's parents owned a winery, and he observed first-hand what hard work it was to work the fields to produce a product. Soon, he was helping his parents manage their winery payroll via a programming solution he developed.



“That’s how I got started,” he said.

Staab earned his undergraduate degree from the University of Applied Sciences in Wiesbaden, Germany, in 1996, then secured a position at Los Alamos National Laboratory and moved to New Mexico. He began UNM computer science courses via the Los Alamos campus, earning his master’s in 1998 and his Ph.D. in 2007.

Now he works at Raytheon as chief technology officer for high-consequence missions, where he is responsible for overseeing the high-consequence missions R&D program, its intellectual property portfolio, and establishing strategic partnerships.

Until July, he was chief technology officer for Raytheon Blackbird Technologies Inc., a wholly-owned subsidiary of Raytheon Corp.

Previously, Staab worked as a research scientist and engineer at the National Institute of Standards and Technology, as a team leader at Los Alamos National Laboratory, and in various software engineering positions.

He said he largely credits his UNM education for his success.

“The knowhow I gained from all the UNM classes — including ones I took through the Anderson School of Management — was a great benefit in my career,” he said.

Staab developed advanced technologies for chemical/biological/nuclear threat reduction, computer forensics, drug discovery, laboratory automation, robotics, environmental sampling, clinical diagnostics, national security and defense. His interdisciplinary work resulted in three issued U.S. patents, over 50 peer-reviewed publications (including a book), and several commercial licensing agreements.

In 2005, he received the School of Engineering Young Distinguished Alumni Award.

Staab and his wife, Heidi, have two sons: Max, 17, and Uli, 15.

In his spare time, he enjoys hiking, skiing, and martial arts.

Dimitrios E. Anagnostou

Young Alumni Award – Electrical and Computer Engineering

Despite being more than 6,000 miles away, it was UNM's stellar reputation that prompted Dimitrios Anagnostou to enroll as a graduate student in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering.

His undergraduate thesis advisor at Democritus University of Thrace in Greece was visiting UNM during his sabbatical, then soon contacted Anagnostou, encouraging him to apply as a master's student to study with professor and now Dean Christos Christodoulou.



"UNM is an excellent university and has one of the best programs in applied electromagnetics. We had family friends who said excellent words about the university and its faculty. UNM had a great reputation as a university that hires young, rising-star professors to teach. Being a member of a collective team was very exciting."

Anagnostou received his undergraduate degree in electrical and computer engineering from the Democritus University of Thrace in 2000 and his master's and Ph.D. from UNM in electrical and computer engineering in 2002 and 2005, respectively.

Among Anagnostou's favorite memories of his time at UNM were his first conference presentation, his first journal publication, and doing novel research in the laboratory and experimenting hands-on with various pieces of equipment.

Outside academia, he has fond memories of UNM and Albuquerque.

"Meeting new people and new cultures, making long-lasting friendships with students from all around the world, and playing soccer were some of my favorite activities. The sky and beautiful sunsets of Albuquerque are unforgettable too," he said. "Albuquerque is one of the most beautiful places in the world."

After graduating from UNM, he was a postdoctoral researcher at Georgia Institute of Technology in 2006. Then, he became an associate professor of electrical and computer engineering at the South Dakota School of Mines & Technology. He is currently with the faculty of the School of Engineering and Physical Sciences at Heriot-Watt University in Scotland.

Anagnostou has received prestigious awards, including the DARPA Young Faculty Award for his research on autonomous multi-reconfigurable antenna arrays, the IEEE John Kraus Antenna Award for integrating antennas with MEMS, and the Campus Star Award by the ASEE.

"I had a very open-minded advisor, and it was great that I was supported by the AFRL in a project that was looking into a new technology. This allowed me to do my master's and Ph.D. in a novel area," he said.

He said many people at UNM had a hand in his success, including Professors Christodoulou, Marios Pattichis, Scott Tyo, Naz Islam, Mark Gilmore, Edl Schamiloglu, Chaouki Abdallah, Ramiro Jordan, Majeed Hayat, Armin Doerry, Panaiotis, and Raul DeGouvea Neto. Being far from homeland was also made easier thanks to the unlimited support of his parents Manos and Mariki, and his sister Ioanna in Greece.

Anagnostou met his wife, Jessica, while at UNM and she has supported him in everything since. They have three daughters: Emmy, Lena, and Gabby.

He enjoys soccer, but his main hobby is mixing songs, which sparked his interest in signal technology and transmission. These lead to the electromagnetics and antennas that were closely related to his graduate work.

Special award: Joseph L. Cecchi

Alumni Leadership Board Exemplary Service Award

The inaugural Exemplary Service Award, presented by the UNM School of Engineering Alumni Leadership Board, recognizes outstanding contributions to the School of Engineering.

The first recipient of this award is Joseph L. Cecchi, Dean Emeritus of the School of Engineering and Professor Emeritus of Chemical and Biological Engineering. During his 12 years as dean, Cecchi prioritized the importance of alumni, reviving the Alumni Leadership Board and also the Distinguished Alumni Awards in 2015. Along with these accomplishments, he has been instrumental in driving the planning and fundraising for two major capital improvement projects – the Centennial Engineering Building and the renovation of Farris Engineering Center. He has been a strong friend of UNM alumni.



Cecchi was dean of the School of Engineering twice, from 2000-2009, and from 2014 until June 2017. He joined UNM in 1993 as professor of chemical engineering. He was honored with the title of Jim and Ellen King Dean of Engineering in August 2016, making him the first dean at UNM to hold an endowed deanship.

Cecchi also served as associate provost for national laboratory relations and as vice chair of the board of directors of STC.UNM, the university's technology-transfer organization.

From 2011 to 2012, while on leave from UNM, Cecchi held appointments as provost and professor of engineering at the Masdar Institute of Science and Technology, Masdar City, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. Cecchi also served as chairman of the board of directors of STC.UNM from 2004 to 2011.

From 1972 to 1993, Cecchi was at Princeton University, where he held joint appointments in the Department of Chemical Engineering and the Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory, and was director of Princeton's graduate program in Plasma Science and Technology, and the New Jersey SEMATECH Center of Excellence for Plasma Etching.

Cecchi received his bachelor's degree from Knox College, and his master's degree and Ph.D. from Harvard University, all in physics. He also earned an MBA from the University of New Mexico in 2011.

From all of us in the School of Engineering, congratulations, Joe!

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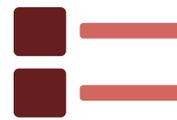
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Best wishes on your continued success.



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Advance at UNM is an NSF-funded program to recruit, retain and promote

women + minority UNM STEM faculty.

Our program works to improve the university climate and processes to benefit all faculty.

Support our work to advance women in STEM at advance.unm.edu.



We showcase the work of women STEM faculty such as Associate Professor of Computer Science Melanie Moses, above left, who launched an annual national collegiate robotics competition with NASA.



Advance at UNM runs an annual competition for seed grants for women STEM faculty. Assistant Professor of Biology Michelle Facette, above, won a 2017 grant to develop fluorescent protein marker lines to monitor cell division in maize.

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Past Recipients of the Distinguished Engineering Alumni Award

**Denotes Distinguished Young Alumni **Denotes Deceased*

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-Campbell

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

Coming soon!



A revamped Farris Engineering Center

Celebrating our newest hub for high-tech innovation

The Farris Engineering Center is in the final stages of a major 18-month renovation, which began in late summer of 2016. The renovation is expected to be completed in November 2017, and students, faculty and staff who have been relocated to various locations across campus will move back into Farris as the spring 2018 semester begins in January.

Naming opportunities for rooms and labs in the renovated Farris are available. For details, contact Kara Clem, senior director of development, at kara.clem@unmfund.org or (505) 277-2051.

