

**“Pasó Por Aquí”:
Remembrances of
Peter L. Eidenbach
Adjunct College Professor of
Anthropology
by the Faculty and Staff
of New Mexico State University
Alamogordo**



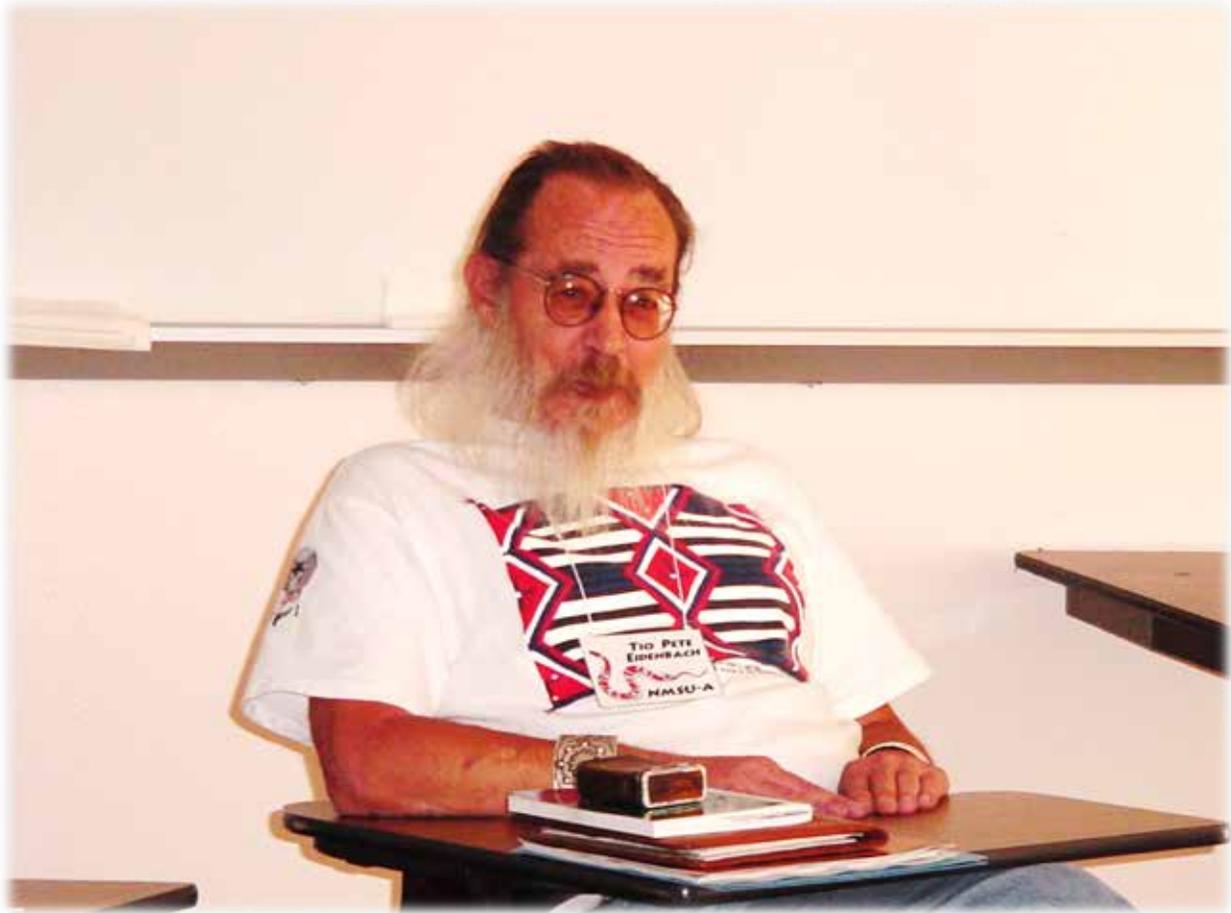
“Pasó Por Aquí”: Remembrances of Peter L. Eidenbach, Adjunct
College Professor of Anthropology, by the Faculty and Staff
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Cover photo: Reprinted from “NMSU-Today”
Compiled by Kim Lopez Gallagher and James Gallagher



Peter L. Eidenbach, Adjunct College Professor of Anthropology
(Photo reprinted from “NMSU-A Today”)

Introduction

By Kim Lopez Gallagher

Pete ‘pasó por aquí’

When we heard that Pete Eidenbach passed away, my husband Jim Gallagher and I wanted to put something together to celebrate the part of Pete’s life that he spent at New Mexico State University Alamogordo. The following pages contain memories of Pete from the people who worked with him over the 35+ years he taught at NMSU Alamogordo. Faculty and staff, current and retired, contributed their memories of Pete to this collection. Many of the contributions are stories about working with or taking classes with Pete. Some contributions are brief tributes to Pete and how he touched our lives being our colleague. There are also photographs of Pete, teaching and contributing to the life of NMSU-A through his always active participation in events held at the college. There are even snippets of Pete’s online Second Life universe where he taught classes and met with faculty. By gathering together our memories of Pete, we pay tribute to his life. Although NMSU-A was just one piece of Pete’s whole life, he was a giant in the life of NMSU Alamogordo. We became better because Pete ‘passed through here.’

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List of Peter L. Eidenbach’s Major Publications on file in the
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“Pete Eidenbach, an Appreciation” by James Gallagher

To me, Pete was first and foremost a teacher; not only to his students but to anyone who would listen to him. College Professor Peter L. Eidenbach taught at New Mexico State University for 35 years: among the courses he taught were Introduction to World Culture; Human Ancestors; Native People of North America; Native Americans in Movies, The Philosophy of Science, and New Mexico History. He also developed and directed the Historical Interpretation program. Pete’s teaching evolved with the times; he taught face-to-face, including sessions around a blazing fire at the outdoor classroom (adjacent to the Faculty Office); online; and in Second Life. In 2001 he was awarded the “Excellence in Teaching” award and he was proud of his students who continued their education in Anthropology, History and Heritage preservation.

Pete also maintained a powerful presence on campus through his service. He attended nearly every campus event; sometimes accompanied by his two pugs. Highlights of his service include being Faculty Advisor to the Native American Student Group and being a perennial member of the Faculty Assembly. As the Adjunct Faculty Representative for his division, Pete always voiced the importance of the adjunct faculty to the health of our University and was instrumental in developing policies that rewarded adjuncts monetarily and spiritually. I also remember how Pete worked diligently to successfully bring the 2018 New Mexico State Historical Society Conference to the NMSU-Alamogordo campus.

Pete was the most intellectually engaged person I have ever met. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology and Philosophy from College of the Holy Cross in 1966 and was All but Dissertation for his PhD at UNM. He was a recognized authority on the history and pre-history of the Tularosa Basin and Southern New Mexico having authored monographs, research reports, and plans in prehistoric and historic archaeology, rural historic architecture, Cold War architecture and military history, and oral history (some of which can be found in his *Trails of the Tularosa: a compendium of fifty years of research*). If that wasn’t enough, Pete wrote a literary history of Eugene Manlove Rhodes classic western romance *Bransford in Arcadia*; and every year he led a caravan to Rhodes’ grave in the forbidden zone (White Sands Missile Range). In 2010, *Alamogordo (Images of America)* was published; through picture and prose, Pete detailed the history of Alamogordo, and in 2012, UNM published his *Atlas of Historical New Mexico Maps 1550-1941* which earned Pete the New Mexico Historical Society’s Fra Francisco Anastasia Dominguez award for “significant contribution...to research in New Mexico or Southwest borderlands history”. One can only be impressed by such scholarship.

Pete Eidenbach was included in Michael Shinabery’s *Legendary Locals of Alamogordo* (2015). Pete is also a legend of NMSU-Alamogordo!

Remembrances of Pete Eidenbach



(Photo reprinted from NMSU-A Today)

* On the first day that I arrived on campus in 2015, a disheveled man showed up at my office door. He was wearing shorts that I thought at the time were slightly too short, he had on a very thin T-shirt with some unusual quote that I wish I could remember now, his hair was wildly all over the place, and he had a beard wilder than his hair. His skin looked as if he had spent many a day in the sun but his eyes were as bright as could be.

Honestly, I was a little worried and the only thing I could think to say was, “who are you?” He walked close, stood directly in front of me and said, “I am the squeaky wheel!” He then let out that crazy laugh!

After a short uncomfortable pause, I said, “Nice to meet you, I’m grease.” Then came another one of his famous laughs even louder, and we shook hands.

This was my first encounter with Pete Eidenbach who had come by to introduce himself and give me a couple of the books that he had written about the Tularosa Basin, “A Brief History of White Sands Proving Ground” and a signed and numbered copy of “The Slight Digression.”

Interestingly enough, Pete was the furthest thing from a squeaky wheel. In fact, he was always so supportive. I will forever appreciate the honest, kind, and caring attitude he had for this campus and all of us. I will miss Pete.

Ken Van Winkle
President
New Mexico State University Alamogordo

* About 17 years ago, I had the privilege of riding with Pete to one of his many Eugene Manlove Rhodes' Gravesite Tours.

We left early and got home late.

To no one's surprise but mine, Pete talked the entire time. He and I rode the 90 minutes with Griffin, his sweet Pug, safely cuddled up between us in that crazy Baja Subaru he drove.

Now, when I say someone talks a lot, I'm really saying something—as a famous over-talker myself.

But Pete taught me so many things that day! We were the lead car and I pitied the cars behind us; the line of cars saw nothing that Pete could show but the dust of the road.

I received an impressive lecture on the Tularosa Basin Salt Wars; he pointed out petroglyphs that everyone else would just drive past. I saw trees and shrubs that are rarely seen in such healthy condition because so much of our wilderness areas are over grazed by cattle. Because the Rhodes' gravesite is on the White Sands Missile Range, cows have not decimated the natural habitat. We saw impressive birds: Western Scrub Jay, Dark Eyed Junco, Cactus Wren, and Northern Flicker. (Who knew Pete was a birder too!)

He was excited to learn that one of my husband's favorite books is Lynn Jacob's *Waste of the West*. He was disappointed, but didn't show it, that I was not well grounded in Rhodes' literature.

We all know Pete as an expert, but you really have to spend a day with him to understand the depth of his knowledge and his passion for the area.

When Pete dropped me off at home, I was beat. I had been in the one-on-one presence of a truly brilliant historian for over 7 hours. I had always admired Pete, but this trip sealed the pact. I understood him so much better than just being the eccentric, talkative activist of our building. I began to understand Pete's activism in earnest. His understanding of the past formed his hopes for the future. I will miss his knowledge, but more, I will miss his guidance about change and his passion for justice.

Kathy Roark-Diehl
Professor of English
New Mexico State University Alamogordo

* Aside from remembering that Pete Eidenbach was one of the most unique and interesting persons that I have ever met, I remember his dedication to his students and NMSU-A.

Pete participated in the majority of all the graduation ceremonies throughout the time that I have worked in Student Services starting in 2001. His pride in the students was evident especially at that event. Students responded in kind--seeking him out to shake his hand or receive a heartfelt hug. It was only many years later that I learned that he was a member of adjunct faculty. On a much lighter note, I remember him telling me that he was going to wear cut-off shorts to graduation, and he was going to cut his regalia and make it into a mini gown!

Thank you for the opportunity to share this. Pete Eidenbach will always remain in my fondest of memories.

***Judy Garcia, Sr. Administrative Assistant
Office of the Vice President for Student Success
New Mexico State University Alamogordo***

*At my retirement party from the college, Pete came up to me and took off my watch. He said, "You won't need to know what time it is anymore," and wove me a bracelet that shrunk enough after I showered that I could not get it off! I wore it for ten years until it finally became too soaked with my body oils and scents that I had to cut it off. Every time I noticed it, I was reminded of all the other interactions I had with Pete over the years. I can't begin to recount them, but even without the bracelet I will have fond memories of Tio Pete---and regret that I never found time to visit Eugene Manlove Rhode's grave with him. Pete was unique.

***Larry Beck
Professor Emeritus of Government and History
New Mexico State University Alamogordo***

* I knew Pete Eidenbach as an icon of NMSU-A. My first impression was that Pete must have been the first Pistol Pete for NMSU, as his overall appearance and passion for NMSU-A resonated every time he appeared at our team gatherings. The pride he demonstrated in the campus and the community spoke volumes about what each of us believe in and stand for while serving our community. Thank you for the impact you had on each of our lives. My prayers are with you and your family.

***Becky Ross, RN, MSN
Allied Health Director
New Mexico State University Alamogordo***

* Pete was a colleague and a mentor to me at NMSU-A. Pete taught me that there is an inextricable link between my job as a teacher and events happening in the world. Many times, Pete came to my office (our offices were next door to each other) and sat with me to talk about what was happening in American and international politics. Pete's passionate concern for justice, not only in the United States, but all around the world inspired me. Pete and I talked about the injustices being done to the Rohingya people in Myanmar, to the Yazidis in Iraq as well as to people right here in the United States. With each conversation, I could see that Pete felt deeply saddened and angered by any injustice. Not content to be only sad and angry, Pete acted. He would post information all around the Faculty Office, articles and flyers, to educate us on what was happening and how we could get involved.

Pete was the most patriotic person I ever met. Since I teach American government, Pete often talked to me about how important it was to teach students about the Bill of Rights. He cared deeply for our democracy. Pete taught me that my job was not only to teach students, but also, by teaching, to extend the reach of democratic ideals by increasing political participation.

I will miss Pete. I will miss hearing his computer play NPR's "All Things Considered" while he prepped for class in his office. I will miss seeing the flyers and articles he would leave for us in the Faculty Office. Most of all, I will miss talking with Pete and learning from him.

Kim Lopez-Gallagher
Professor of History, Government and Philosophy
New Mexico State University Alamogordo

* Pete and I started teaching part-time at NMSU-A at about the same time. We often taught in the same classroom, many times it was one-after-the-other. Sometimes when Pete was teaching before me, I would get to the classroom a little early for my class and listen to Pete telling his class a story to illustrate a point of the lecture. I soon realized Pete's stories were better than mine, and told better as well. They often involved tales from the bygone days of the frontier in this part of New Mexico.

Later, when I became a staff member at the college, I would frequently voice my frustrations to Pete about decisions that were being made by administrators. Pete would listen calmly and then often reply with an appropriate story from the past that contained a useful piece of common-sense wisdom. Like the stories he told in the classroom, these seemed to be wise words originating around evening camp fires and on long trail rides.

Bruce Martin, PhD
Institutional Research Director and Adjunct Instructor of Government (Retired)
New Mexico State University Alamogordo



Pete Eidenbach and Griffin the Pug at Eugene Manlove Rhode's gravesite (Photo by Wanda Wakkinen)

*** Five Paragraphs for Tio Pete**

So Tio Pete is gone. Never to try the patience of a committee chair, or a division head, or a deanlet, with another good idea out of time, another worthy project unaffordable. Another dusty road unexplored, officially. But he was always there--before me, even—with a sage's gray beard and lined face and merry eyes, chuckling over the rusty bureaucratic mechanisms. What else can you do in a benign fiefdom like a branch campus of a feudal university? Make the best of it.

Another road unexplored? Our loss. Pete dug around at the end of plenty—on his own, and with other ambitious scholars, like himself. With other students, curious, like himself. I

proudly claim to have been a fellow traveler down the track (not really a road) from Engle up to Rhodes Canyon, in the San Andreas Mountains. Pete helped us get there, to Rhodes's gravesite, so we would understand better the words—the viewpoint—of Eugene Manlove Rhodes. Paso por Aqui. And, the love of the land from that viewpoint, Pete shared. The mountain-rimmed Tularosa Basin. Black lava flows, white dunes, and bright blue sky: all set sparkling Tio Pete's eyes.

Pete also read the words of Aldo Leopold, at the 1990 Earthday teach-in that I organized. We read on the steps of NMSU-A's outdoor stage, long since buried under one of our castles of learning. Thanks for helping me out with that, Pete. And, I'm sorry I never saw you launch an atlatl.

I take a small measure of pride in being a helper, levering creaky dispensations, for Tio Pete, and for part-timers. (Let other medieval institutions use the term "adjunct"; with us, the term "part-timer" was a little like "old-timer," indicative of wisdom and generosity.) At his urging, we invented rank for part-timers—like Pete, especially. We got Pete an honorific promotion, with all the gold that the new Associate Professor (part-time) title was afforded by the Chancellor's barons. All it took was time—mostly Pete's—to establish ranks for part-timers. Then, all it took was a little time for the Promotion Committee to look over Pete's ancient scrolls, to award the unrewarded title. (And then, all it took was a little time for deanlets to proclaim the whole, costless project of recognition vacated. Doesn't matter: at New Mexico State, Pluto is a planet, goddammit—thank you very much Dr. Tombaugh—and Pete Eidenbach is, of right and shall always be, a Prof. (part-time) of Anthropology and Archeology & New Mexico History.) So many references to "part-time"; Tio Pete was full-time in life, as a scholar. (*Compilers' note: years after Professor McNeel retired, a new "deanlet" at New Mexico State University's main campus returned Pete's title, this time to College Professor*).

Scholarship combines textual research with field research to bring knowledge to bear—lightly or heavily or however the students find the load: in the classroom, at the end of a shovel at the end of a barely mapped track, or on Pete's own pages. Tio Pete had maps of where we've been. It wouldn't surprise me if he hid his treasure maps of where we are going. Thanks for trying so hard to show us the ways, Pete.

Ron McNeel
Professor of English (Retired)
New Mexico State University Alamogordo

* Pete was a life member of the Tularosa Basin Historical Society (TBHS). He was often presenting programs about the Trinity Site, White Sands ranchers, the tunnel area, and the Sacramento Mountains. He wrote or was referenced often in the TBHS Pioneers and other publications.

His main focus, after its gifting to TBHS in 2012, became the La Luz Pottery Factory nestled within its 235 acres. He combed the property for historical artifacts. Pete was against cleanup or safety improvements that might disturb archaeological features.

A thorough 20-page booklet is "Rowland Hazard III's La Luz Clay Products Pottery Factory" by Pete in 2017. The August 2018 *New Mexico Magazine* cover and pages 34 - 39 is very descriptive of the Las Luz Pottery Factory. There on page 35 is Pete in full color. Pete gave 1 to 2-hour tours of the Pottery Factory until he was unable to do so.

***Brad Shelton, TBHS & LLP committee
Vice President of Finance/Business (Retired)
New Mexico State University Alamogordo***

* Here is one of my favorite memories of Pete: Pete was for many years a member of the Tularosa Basin Historical Society and served with distinction on the research committee of that organization. During many of these years they met in a conference room directly across from my office at NMSU-A. This was fortuitous for one of my specializations as an American history instructor is the westward movement. As a result, the research committee asked me to serve as a consultant when they were faced with potential problems or difficulties. On one occasion, Pete stepped over to my office and asked me to join in the discussion. This I was delighted to do. Pete shared with me the problem. It was a topic of deep concern for the committee as a whole. In short, when dealing with primary sources, should the committee purge out profanity and derogatory ethnic and racial slurs before publishing the materials. To my delight, Pete and I stood shoulder to shoulder in full agreement.

Pete was insistent that it was not the business of the committee to impose the morality of our time on the past, as distasteful as some of that material may be. Pete and I were occasionally adversaries on some issues, but I count it an honor that he was my friend.

***P. Frank Webb
Associate College Professor of Philosophy, History and Geography
New Mexico State University Alamogordo***



Faculty Meeting in Second Life; Pete is the one with the beard (photo by Wanda Wakkinen).

Pete Eidenbach in Second Life

Many people will comment about the life of Pete Eidenbach, but few spent time with Pete in Second Life. Pete introduced us to Second Life in his office one afternoon. We had dropped in, and he had something he wanted to show us on his computer. He was very excited about a new concept. It was a different world.

In the period from about 2010-2012, Second Life was (and still is) an online world with three continents and thousands of islands. It was not a game; it was a place where people went to work, play, and – in some cases – mostly to live. Each person created an “avatar” – an alter ego to represent them. We could walk, run, talk, fly, and, yes, there was even sex in Second Life. Most of us began with an avatar that looked fairly similar to our real-life selves, but we soon branched out into other forms that included dolphins, mermaids, fairies, animals, dragons – anything you could imagine. But, Pete created a single avatar – one that was clearly recognizable as the real-life Pete Eidenbach. He never played with other forms, and his shirt was a rendition of one he wore in real life – made for him by a Native American friend. You could recognize Pete at a glance. His Second Life name was Tiopete, his real-life nickname.

But, what Pete was excited about was the use of Second Life as a teaching platform. Many of the “big” universities owned their own islands and used them to reproduce works of art like the Sistine Chapel as well as holding online classes that allowed teacher-student interaction that was more like real life than the typical online classes. We were fascinated and set up our own accounts, taking an Introduction to Second Life course offered by Jenna Kammer.

NMSU bought its own island, and, soon, there were enough of us to have faculty meetings, typically facilitated by Pete. Each of us had an office in Second Life. Wanda’s was by the seashore, Bill’s floated in the sky, and Pete’s Office – in keeping with his real life – was a tipi decorated with Native American designs. Some of our earliest Second Life faculty meetings were held in the tipi, but soon Pete built a meeting table outside. One of the nice features of Second Life was the lack of rain – outside was fine all the time. We could literally control day and night. We also met around Pete’s campfire.

Before we began our own classes, we took Pete’s Historical Preservation course – in Second Life, of course. Along with regular classroom lectures, he took us on field trips to recreated historic sites around the world. Once we got our feet (or paws or hooves) wet, we explored on our own, turning in papers that dealt with specific aspects of preservation. It set the scene for our future Second Life classes.

In the beginning, we built our own classrooms. Pete chose a location overlooking the ocean with mats where the students could sit, while he perched on what appeared to be a rock bench. He even included a blackboard and later a white board. Pete was a story teller, and he spun his whimsical tales that took us into the realms of archaeology and history where few have gone or can go – just like in his real-life classes (some of which we also took). Later, the classrooms became more standardized – but still interesting, like one with seats that floated around a central teaching platform – but Pete kept his original design – even when he had to take it down and reassemble it for each session.

Our group only taught in Second Life for two or three years, but they were dynamic and interesting times. Pete was always a pioneer, reaching out for a new sense of adventure. He was a central feature of NMSU-A in Second Life, never to be forgotten by those who served with him.

***Bill Lockhart, Professor of Sociology (retired), and Wanda Wakkinen, Associate Professor of Communication (retired), AKA Ramulous Aeon and Dolphina Questi
New Mexico State University Alamogordo***

* Every time I walk into Lowes' Signature Market and see the photos on the wall, I remember Pete. He was the living, breathing historical memory of our community; he lovingly recreated the past in real and personal ways so that we too could remember not only where we are but how we and our beautiful piece of the world evolved. But it wasn't just the trestle or the train or the trees in the historical photos he chose; he included the people who built or rode or cut, identified by name, who laughed in enjoyment or sweated through the challenges. He celebrated each individual for what they contributed to our precious heritage. What a genius project that reminds us to honor our own family histories as well. I will always love Pete for that---and for his ability to live joyfully and fully.

Dee Beck
Counselor and Adjunct Instructor (retired)
New Mexico State University Alamogordo

* I was in the lobby of the Faculty Office on the campus of NMSU-Alamogordo when Brian Cesar, now the Alamogordo City Manager, rushed into the building and cried out "Jim, where is Pete Eidenbach? Where is Pete Eidenbach?" "Let's go look in his office." I replied. But Pete wasn't there. "Brian, what's the problem? Why do you desperately need Pete?" Brian looked around and then said, "We were digging for a pipeline and we came upon a dead body. We need Pete to tell us if it is okay to keep digging or if this is murder or a desecration." Yes, Pete was a man of many talents and it took me a long time to find them all out.

Jim Gallagher
Professor of Communication
New Mexico State University Alamogordo

* I don't think words can express how I felt as a student being in Pete's class. So often we would stay later just to listen and talk to this amazing soul who lived to share what he knew with anyone who would listen.

I'll miss waving at him as he got out or into that funky yellow car/truck with the I love pugs bumper sticker.

The world has lost a great mind and soul!

Milly Flores
I-Best Basic Skills Instructor, PACE
New Mexico State University Alamogordo



Pete in the Faculty Office sporting Finnish Hat (Photo by Wanda Wakkinen)

*I started working at NMSU-A back in 2006. On my very first day as an official employee, I was feeling excited, but also overwhelmed. Pete is the first faculty member I met. He was entering the building as I was introducing myself to our office's administrative assistant. Pete gave me a hearty handshake and welcomed me to the campus. He showed me where my office was, and then took me around the office to meet other faculty members. His warmth calmed my nerves, and his cheerful personality made me feel at home.

Pete was such a collector! I loved stopping by his office to see what new treasure he had picked up. He had artifacts everywhere, and each one had a story. Pete loved to talk about each treasure--where he got it, what the significance was, and how it fit into the historical narrative. He made objects come to life as if he, personally, had used each one sometime in the distant past.

For many semesters, Pete, Bill Lockhart, and I were the "Night Shift" on campus. We all had classes that got out after 7PM, so we were the only ones left as the night drew on. There were many nights when I left for home far too late because the three of us would get to talking about history, society, and archeology. Those two men had more combined knowledge than a whole library of books! Their knowledge built on one another too. One would begin sharing a story and explain everything he knew, then the other would pick up and keep going. I received quite an education. Although it was nice to get home earlier, I was sad when my schedule changed and I wasn't a member of the "Night Shift".

While Pete could be incredibly sweet and compassionate, he was also a force to be reckoned with. He was an advocate for adjunct rights on campus. He was not afraid to stand up to authority if he saw an injustice occurring. He was constantly fighting for adjunct

recognition, better pay, and a stronger voice in decision making. He led the charge to get adjuncts put onto many more committees on campus so that their voices could be heard. I saw him bring awareness to adjunct issues in nearly every meeting he attended. He was passionate and fearless.

He was also a staunch supporter of students. He would fight to retain every single student who registered for his courses. He spent hours working individually with at-risk students. When students were floundering, he helped them discover what they were passionate about, and taught them how to pursue their passion. His love of archeology and history was passed on to many students who took his classes.

I will miss many things about Pete, but what I will miss most of all is his booming laugh. The halls of the Faculty Office are far too silent without the joviality of my dear colleague. Rest in peace Pete. You are sorely missed.

Tanya Allred
Professor of English
New Mexico State University Alamogordo

*I was a fellow professor at NMSU-A with Pete Eidenbach for many years. We didn't run in the same circles because of our teaching assignments, I presume. However, I knew Pete's wife Sara quite well; we served together on a community water board in High Rolls, New Mexico. I can tell you that the NMSU-A's mandatory faculty meetings were certainly more interesting when Pete could attend.

I always admired Pete's well thought out projects and ideas for better conditions for adjunct professors, as Pete was one of the more higher-ranking professors, a published author, and one who offered really interesting, original and innovative courses at NMSU-A. I loved the book that Pete published in 2012, *An atlas of historic New Mexico maps, 1550-1941*.

My condolences to Sara and family: Pete will certainly be missed in the academic hallways at NMSU-A, and in High Rolls.

Ron Offley
Associate Professor of Chemistry (retired)
New Mexico State University Alamogordo (1989-2002)

* Pete had an unbelievable wealth of knowledge and experience in so many areas. He was such an interesting person and a fun character. He will be missed.

Jennifer Smith, PhD
College Professor of Biology
New Mexico State University Alamogordo

* I only had the pleasure of meeting Pete in person a few times; however, I served with him on the Faculty Assembly Committee for several years and interacted with him virtually. Pete gave input on most of the topics discussed. As secretary, I found that I was typing his name throughout the minutes. He was passionate about the students, the school, and the work of the Faculty Assembly. He was not afraid to voice his opinion and use his experience to help make sound decisions in the group. He will be missed.

Karen May
Adjunct College Associate Professor of Business
New Mexico State University Alamogordo

* A few years ago, Pete gave a presentation on the La Luz pottery at the Non-Exempt staff's Development Day. He had slides of how the site looks present day, but as he talked the past came to life. I could tell that he just LOVED telling people about it. He was a great storyteller. 😊

Karen Duggan
Administrative Assistant, Int. Student Success
New Mexico State University Alamogordo

* I knew Pete (not as Tio however), from our times in the faculty office before our classes met. He was always a most congenial and friendly man, he loved his teaching and his students. My wife, Elizabeth Padilla, who was the Director of Communication Education at the NMSU-A campus, knew Pete as he was always ready to help her in setting up the Community Ed programs which honored Eugene Manlove Rhodes at his gravesite in Sierra county, with Pete presenting the history of Rhodes, a writer of western novels. Pete always did a great job and was always extremely well-versed, and ready to help. My condolences to Pete's family.

George Padilla
Adjunct Instructor of Business (Retired)
New Mexico State University Alamogordo

* Yes, Pete will be missed. Pete knew a lot about many things and never refused a request for information. He truly cared about wanting students to have the chance to do better.

Joyce Hill, PhD
Professor of Education and Assessment Director
New Mexico State University Alamogordo

* He had a presence and was a powerful addition to our division and a great role model for adjuncts.

Colleen Bond
Adjunct College Professor of English
New Mexico State University Alamogordo

* *We will all greatly miss Pete!* He was a great person and colleague and was extremely dedicated to his students and to the history of our beloved Tularosa Basin. We will miss his infectious laugh, wealth of knowledge, and his love for archeology and his endless quest to preserve history!

Rest in Peace Tio Pete

John B. Adams
Professor of Art
New Mexico State University Alamogordo

* Pete and I were on the original historical society committee for the La Luz Pottery restoration project. I usually parked cars for visitors when Pete was in charge of tours. For over 20 years we worked together on the publication committee for the society. I always knew I could ask Pete questions about local history and get an answer that was honest. When I moved, due to old age, I called Pete when I was so lonesome for New Mexico, and I left him with book material that will properly not see the light of day now. I enjoyed working with him, taking his tours to Rhode's grave, and sharing the deep love and interest we both had in the land. His last e-mail simply said "I'm okay." He was never good at long e-mails. Adios, Amigo.

Janie Furman
Author



PETE EIDENBACH

TAKE ONE!
↓

**AVISO
WARNING
FAVOR DE NO MOLESTAR
DO NOT DISTURB**

The location behind this sign is protected under the Antiquities Act of 1906 (PL59-209), National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (PL89-665), Archaeological and Historical Preservation Act of 1974 (PL93-291), Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 (PL96-95) and AR 420-40. Excavation, removal, damage, alteration or defacement of any part of this site is prohibited. Violators may be subject to civil and/or criminal penalties of not more than \$100,000 or five years imprisonment or both.

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Alamogordo Daily News

Residents: Leave monuments alone

Pottery factory seeks historic title

State sees tax revenues rebound

(Photo by Kim Lopez Gallagher)

“Reading at Risk” by Pete Eidenbach. “NMSU-A Today”, April 2007 Volume IX

Ask the faculty what is the most important educational skill for success. You will get a resounding, unanimous answer: Reading, Reading, Reading!

Unfortunately, many students join us with poor reading skills; some of our students only read at a third-grade level. We try to help with remedial courses but without the motivation there will be little improvement.

We need to change the social climate. All of us, students, faculty, staff, friends, parents need to communicate the high value we place on reading. We need to show our peers how much we love to read. We need to help each other by encouraging reading. And I speak from experience. Books are among my best and dearest friends. My house is chucky-jam full of books of all sorts. I read all the time. Even while I am watching TV. Just ask my wife Sara.

How can you help improve reading skills in the community? Here are a few quick ideas.

1. Don't leave home without a book. Carry a book everywhere (and read it when you have a spare moment).
2. Read in Public Places, not just at home!
3. Talk about the new book that you just enjoyed. Share your likes and dislikes over coffee in the Deli.
4. Let people see you reading. Sit under a tree with a book. Books don't need a power supply or a WiFi link. New Mexico's historic poet laureate, Gene Rhodes, was well known locally for riding a horse with a book in his hand. (Allegedly, he tore out each page as he finished and tossed it. DON'T DO THAT! It's littering and wastes a good book).
5. Sign on to bookcrossing.com; read and release: read a book, register it, leave it for someone to find in a public place, then track where it ends up!
6. Give books as gifts.
7. Browse the Library.
8. Read to your kids.
9. Go to the Public Library sales—lots of books for pennies, all kinds of stuff.
10. Let's start Geocaching with books; it's the new outdoor hobby. Put a book in a good ziplock, stash it out in the bush somewhere and post the GPS geo-reference. Here's a start: NAD(27) UTM 13S 0413584E 3642549N. If you find this book, email me (tiopete@zianet.com) the author's name, read the book, and pass it forward.

Reading is a national problem. Reading is at Risk (see<www.nea.gov/pub/ReadingAtRisk.pdf>). It is affecting our egalitarian democracy. It will produce a powerful new upper class if we don't address the problem. We all need to begin helping ourselves, helping each other, and helping our children to improved reading skill. Let's all learn to succeed.

Peter L. Eidenbach's Major Publications on file in the Townsend Library, NMSU-

- 2018 *Trails of the Tularosa: a compendium of fifty years of research*
- 2012 *An Atlas of Historic New Mexico Maps, 1550-1941*
- 2010 *Images of America: Alamogordo*
- 2009 *Geographic & Historic Places in Second Life*. (free online).
- 2009 *The West That Was Forgotten: Historic Ranches of the Northern San Andres Mountains, NM* (revised) *Pioneer*, vol. 12. no. 1.
- 2008 *Compact Primer in Historic Preservation* (free online).
- 2008 *The Geographic History of Sansara Continent -Second Life* (free online).
- 2003 *Dust of the Drag – 2002 Archaeological Excavations at the Oliver Lee*

- 2002 *The Slight Digression – a Literary Companion to Eugene Manlove Rhodes*“

- 2001 *Dog Cañon Military Papers* (ed.).
- 2001 *Cartridges of the Lee Ranch* (ed.).
- 1997 *A Brief History of White Sands Proving Ground, 1941–1965* (free online).
- 1997 *School Days—Education During the Ranching Era on WSMR* (with L. Hart).
- 1994 *A Number of Things: Baldy Russell, Estey City, and the Ozanne Stage* (with R. Hart).
- 1994 *Homes on the Range—Oral History of Ranching Families on WSMR* (with Morgan).
- 1983 *The Prehistory of Rhodes Canyon, N.M.*
- 1982 *Inventory Survey of the Lower Hidden Mountain Floodpool, Lower Rio Puerco Drainage, Central New Mexico.*
- 1981 *Two Prehistoric Solstice Observatories in the Sacramento Mountains, Southern New Mexico.*
- 1981 *Archaeological Reconnaissance in White Sands National Monument, New Mexico, 1978* (with M. Wimberly).
- 1979 *Reconnaissance Study of the Archaeological and Related Resources of the Lower Puerco and Salado Drainages, Central NM* (with M. Wimberly).
- 1973 *Technical Manual: 1973 Survey of the Tularosa Basin: Research Design.*