

Visionary Leaders *and their legacy*

Daniel Boone Jett

Jett Hall, dedicated in 1957, was named for one of the college's most beloved deans, Daniel B. Jett. The edifice originally housed the civil and mechanical engineering departments; it was substantially expanded in 1966 specifically to house the chemical engineering department. Today Jett Hall is home to the chemical and mechanical and aerospace departments.

Nicknamed "Dad Jett," he won the annual "most popular faculty member" vote seven times. Jett was hired in 1926 as a civil engineering professor, and became head of the department in 1933. He served as dean from 1938 to 1947. With the outbreak of WWII, he became director of the Civil Aeronautics Authority (later expanded into the National Defense Training Program). These military efforts caused a significant, immediate rise in enrollment, followed by a sharp decline as students were called to active duty.

During the war years, Jett composed class newsletters and wrote scores of letters to the men and women of the School of Engineering in the service. His energy and enthusiasm boosted morale among those serving overseas or stateside, as well as those at home fighting to keep the school going during hard times.

Jett stepped down in 1947 at age 60 according to policy and returned to teaching. He continued on as head of civil engineering and remained heavily involved with student organizations until his retirement in 1956.



Ralph Willis Goddard

The stately structure now known as Goddard Hall dates to 1913 and is the symbol of engineering at NMSU. Ralph Willis Goddard came from the University of Nebraska to the New Mexico College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts to head the newly formed electrical engineering division in 1914. He rose to dean in 1920 and went on to serve as the director of the Experimental Station as well as director of the college radio station KOB.

Originally called the Engineering Building, a 1912 student newspaper deemed Goddard Hall to be "one of the most costly and beautiful buildings on campus." The three-story main unit and a one-story annex to house machinery and woodworking shops cost some \$30,000 to construct. Today it houses the College of Engineering administration.

Goddard became well known for his work in wireless communications, making one of the first radio broadcasts west of the Mississippi and the first-ever in New Mexico from his hand-built radio station in a small shack on campus. By the late 1920s, KOB's 10,000-watt system was the largest college radio station in the world, and rightfully boasted of being the "voice of the Southwest," reaching homes 1,000 miles away.

In 1929, as Goddard was preparing for the New Year's Eve broadcast, his hand accidentally brushed an exciter connected to the large direct current generators, sending 12,000 volts of electricity through his body. Goddard was likely killed instantly.

In March 1934, the engineering building was named Goddard Hall in his honor. In 1960, the college established an FM station called KRWG, named for Ralph Willis Goddard.



New Mexico State University traces its roots to 1888, when a group of visionary citizens launched Las Cruces College. Their dream evolved into the institution that NMSU is today, proudly serving the land-grant mission for the state of New Mexico. Part of NMSU's rich history is derived from the development of the College of Engineering. Remarkable individuals guided and influenced this evolution and many of them are recognized with their names memorialized by the college on some of the most unique buildings on campus.

Ed and Harold Foreman

In 2006, the Engineering Complex III building was designated the Ed and Harold Foreman Engineering Complex to honor their contributions to the college.

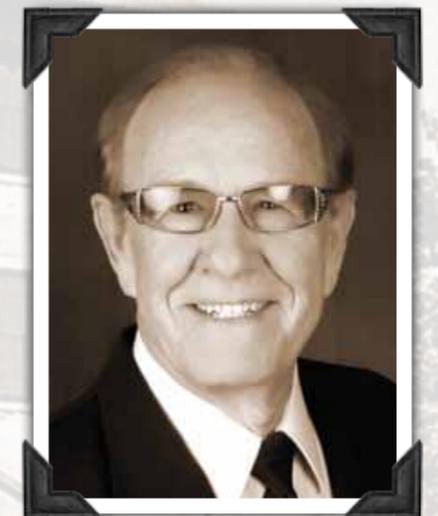
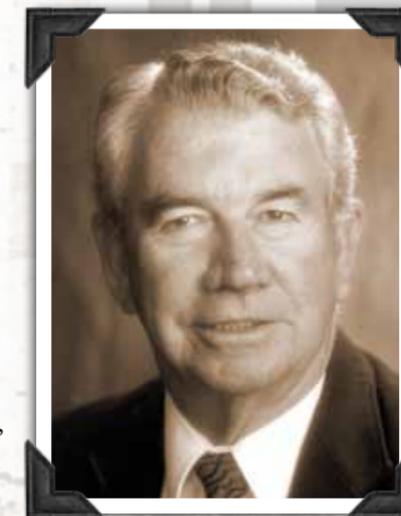
The Foreman brothers, Ed (class of '55) and Harold "Chub" (class of '61), are longtime supporters of the civil engineering department. Both are members of the Civil Engineering Academy and were listed among the Top 100 Distinguished Alumni in 1988. In 2005, they made a major gift to the College of Engineering, establishing two professorships and an endowed chair.

The brothers grew up on a peanut and sweet potato farm in Portales, N.M. Today they enjoy the rewards of successful careers.

While working as an oil field hand, Ed launched a petroleum-related business that made him a millionaire by age 26. He is the only person in the past 100 years elected to the U.S. Congress from two states: New Mexico and Texas. Ed is one of the country's top motivational speakers, sharing the success formula guiding his life.

Harold's career began in heavy construction and led to real estate brokerage and management. He is currently president and co-owner of Valley Leasing and Development Inc. in Las Cruces. He served for eight years in the New Mexico State Senate.

The Ed and Harold Foreman Engineering Complex houses the engineering technology and surveying engineering department, the industrial engineering department and the Institute for Energy and the Environment.



Samuel P. Maggard

The Samuel P. Maggard Courtyard was formally dedicated in 2003 and named in honor of Samuel P. “Doc Sam” Maggard, professor emeritus of the civil engineering department. The courtyard is the open space encompassed by Engineering Complex I, Hernandez Hall and the Ed and Harold Foreman Engineering Complex.

During the dedication, a new endowed scholarship was announced—the Sam Maggard Transportation Engineering Scholarship, to be awarded annually to a civil engineering student. A permanent plaque was placed in the courtyard on a concrete pedestal designed and built by civil engineering and engineering technology students.

Maggard came to NMSU in 1963 as an assistant professor of civil engineering. During his tenure he served as professor (1963-1993), department head (1966-1979) and director of the Engineering Research Center (1988). He played a key role in securing funding for the three engineering complex buildings, and served as project coordinator and inspector for the construction of the buildings.

In 1964, Maggard and others began the New Mexico Quality Concrete School, jointly with the New Mexico Ready Mix and Aggregates Association. In 1991, he became instructor of the semi-annual, two-week Comprehensive Bridge Inspection School, required for bridge inspectors by the U.S. Department of Transportation. He continued to conduct bridge inspections for numerous state agencies and in several foreign countries until he passed away in 2011.



John Whitlock Hernandez

Engineering Complex II, completed in early 1989 to house the civil engineering department, was renamed in 2001 to honor John Whitlock Hernandez. Hernandez was recognized for opening engineering to women and minorities, particularly Hispanics and Native Americans.

Hernandez served as dean of the College of Engineering from 1975 to 1980. He joined the civil engineering department of NMSU in 1965 as an associate professor and was tenured as a full professor in 1968. In 1970 he collaborated with William A. Dick-Peddie, former head of the university’s biology department, to create the New Mexico Environmental Institute. The goal of the institute was to improve the understanding of the state’s natural resources and to make such data available to scientists, land managers and policymakers in New Mexico. He also co-directed the Southwest Center for Women and Minorities in Engineering.

In February 1981, while on leave from NMSU, he was named deputy administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. In March 1983 he became acting administrator of the agency. He resigned that post in May 1983 to take a position with the U.S. Department of Energy, returning to NMSU in January 1984.

Hernandez’s tenure at NMSU continued until his retirement in 1999. His proudest achievement remains increasing the enrollment of and opportunities for Hispanics, Native Americans and women in the engineering program. He was made an honorary member of the American Society of Civil Engineers in 2005.



Frank Bromilow

On Engineer’s Day, Feb. 21, 1975, the area in the center of the engineering complex was dedicated as Frank Bromilow Mall, recognizing the contributions of the former dean. It also was the beginning of the annual Bromilow Lecture and scholarship awarding—traditions that continue today. The tradition was expanded in 1978 with the addition of the Bromilow Awards for faculty and staff excellence. Together, these three acknowledgments perpetuate the high level of excellence that Bromilow sought to develop in the college.

Frank Bromilow came to NMSU in 1951 as professor and head of civil engineering. In 1961, he became dean of the College of Engineering and director of the Engineering Experiment Station—positions he held until his death in 1974. During his years as dean, the college grew in terms of faculty, program

quality and physical facilities.

Bromilow served the engineering profession well. He was a registered professional engineer in the states of Pennsylvania and New Mexico, a member of the State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors in New Mexico, a director of the National Society of Professional Engineers, an American Society of Civil Engineers Fellow and president of the New Mexico Society of Professional Engineers.

Melvin A. Thomas and Harold Brown

Melvin A. Thomas assumed the office of dean in 1947. He joined the NMSU faculty as an electrical engineering professor in 1931 rising to head of the department by 1932.

A life fellow of both the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers and the American Society for Engineering Education, Thomas was a member of the New Mexico State Electrical Board and chairman of the El Paso chapter of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers.

Thomas retired in 1967 and was named a Distinguished Faculty Member by the New Mexico State Alumni Association in 1972. He passed away in 2002.

Harold “Prof” Brown took over as electrical engineering department head in 1956, serving until 1968. Brown, who joined the faculty in 1937, retired in 1970.

Brown’s support of engineering students extended beyond teaching and administration. He owned property along Espina Street and when the university wanted to acquire that land, Brown traded it for scholarship money to honor his father. Brown passed away in 1998, leaving an unmatched legacy. The estate-funded “Prof. Brown” engineering scholarship—in excess of \$1 million—represents the largest endowed scholarship fund in the college. It has supported hundreds of students over the years.

Thomas and Brown Hall was dedicated in their names in 1972. The building became home to the electrical engineering department, today known as the Klipsch School of Electrical and Computer Engineering.

