

POWER

2006 Book

40 under Forty

For a state with a relatively small population, the range of talent in this year's 40 Under 40 is quite impressive. From a world-class flamenco dancer to a world-class chemist, these individuals offer a provocative view of New Mexico's up and coming young professionals.

This year's honorees are well on their way to becoming power brokers in their fields. They also are heavily involved in their communities, despite the fact many have families and are busy establishing themselves or building their businesses. We're convinced that some of them only sleep about three hours a night.

New Mexico is struggling with the issues of brain drain and many of its most talented young people are leaving to find other opportunities elsewhere. But these 40 young professionals, a mix

of homegrown sons/daughters and transplants, have decided to make their mark in the Land of Enchantment. We applaud their efforts to make the state a better place to live.

We want to thank all the honorees for being so forthcoming in answering our questions, especially in 'fessing up to their fantasy jobs, favorite secret TV shows or their unusual morning routines (see Joe Thompson's answer on that one). And we must admit, until we read Doug Heller's answer, we never knew there was an entire network devoted to old game shows — or that anyone actually watched it.

So now that we've put them and their talents on display, we just wanted to give them a heads up that we're all counting on them to carry us into the future.

No pressure.

Doug Heller, 37
Owner, Mullen Heller Architecture
P.C.



Heller and his partner, Michele Mullen, have taken their architectural firm through projects ranging from spas to labs, in daring designs that span the country.

But Heller has also designed a solid community life, with work at organizations that include Habitat for Humanity, United Way of Central New Mexico, and New Mexico AIDS Services.

What was your first job? Working in my parents' warehouse loading trucks.

What was your best investment? Trusting my partner, Michele Mullen, on the timing and philosophy to start our own company.

What do you like to do first thing in the morning? Read the newspaper and go to the gym.

Who is the most interesting person you ever met? Habitat for Humanity founder Millard Fuller.

Who is your favorite fictional/comic book character? Speed Racer.

What is the TV show you won't admit you watch? Reruns on the Game Show Network.

Who is the business person you most admire? My father.

What is your fantasy job? To be on the stage.

What trait has been most important to your success? Cutting to the heart of a design problem and crafting the best solution.