

*The Morrill Act of 1862 established a Land Grant University  
in each state where The Leading Object  
would be instruction in agriculture and related fields*

**THE  
LEADING  
OBJECT**

**NMSU's College of Agriculture and Home Economics**

Vol. 14, No.12, December 2000

## Building dedication, Sam Steel ceremony on Dec. 15

Dedication of Skeen Hall and fall induction ceremonies for the Sam Steel Society will highlight events Friday, Dec. 15.

At 11 a.m., NMSU's new arid lands building will be named Skeen Hall in honor of U.S. Rep. Joe Skeen and Mary Skeen during ceremonies on the patio north of the building. The hall's new name will be unveiled following introductory speeches. Lunch will be served afterward.

Joe Skeen, chair of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, was instrumental in securing federal funding for the \$22 million building. He has served more than 20 years in Congress.

His wife, Mary, runs the family's Buckhorn Ranch in Lincoln County and is active in the New

Mexico Wool Growers Association. She is the longest-serving New Mexico delegate to the national Council for Agricultural Research, Extension and Teaching. NMSU's Board of Regents unanimously approved the name change Nov. 20.

At 4 p.m., NMSU's Sam Steel Society will induct fall graduates and honor two couples for their support during ceremonies in Hershel Zohn Theater.

The society honors the memory of Sam Steel, who would have been the university's first graduate had he not been killed just months before his graduation in 1893.

John Owens, NMSU executive vice president, will receive a plaque commemorating his founding of the Sam Steel Society in 1993. Three other supporters will receive honor-

ary memberships: Virginia Owens, former NMSU faculty member; and Joe and Mary Skeen.

John Owens, NMSU executive vice president since 1997, previously served for 12 years as dean and chief administrative officer of the College of Agriculture and Home Economics. He was the driving force in securing federal and state funding for Skeen Hall and the \$7 million Agricultural Research Service building scheduled for completion in summer 2001.

He is leaving NMSU to become vice chancellor for the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln beginning Jan. 1.

Virginia Owens is a retired faculty member from NMSU's College of Education. ❖

### The Dean's Perspective

I'm very excited about the Dec. 15 dedication of Skeen Hall. The building with the ever-so-forgettable long name will now have a handle that is easy to remember. It will be named for two very important people in the life of the College of Agriculture and Home Economics and NMSU.

Mary Skeen, who comes from a respected ranching family that developed the Debouillet breed of sheep, is someone who has been a great supporter of the land-grant mission in her own right. She became a delegate to the national Council on Agricultural Research, Extension and Teaching in 1987 and has served continuously since then.

The council exists to explore and address the needs of the land-grant

system. Each spring, delegates travel to Washington, D.C., to impress the importance of the land-grant system on decision-makers. The ability of land-grant universities to hold their own and for NMSU in particular to do so is in no small part due to members like Mary.

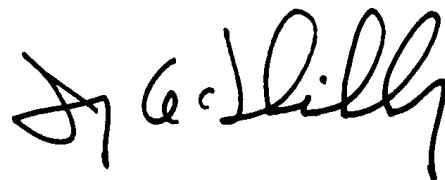
Joe Skeen, of course, is legendary as the only New Mexican elected to Congress on a write-in vote. Next month, he becomes the first New Mexican to serve more than 20 years in the U.S. House of Representatives.

He has been a giant for NMSU. Even before the new laboratory building, he helped establish the International Arid Lands Consortium, of which NMSU is a partner. He established and supported the

Rural Economic Development Through Tourism project. He has redirected many research dollars to the Jornada Experimental Range and established several long-running research projects about New Mexico problems.

The first move to create the new building was made by Joe Skeen, and he was committed to the project like no other for the six years it took to get full funding.

Credit is surely going to where credit is due on Dec. 15. ❖



## Dairy judging team forming

NMSU will form its first dairy judging team in more than 40 years in January. Animal and Range Sciences will offer a dairy cattle judging class in the spring and is developing curriculum for a dairy science option.

"New Mexico was named Dairy State of the Decade by popular dairy industry publications, and it's time we had a dairy judging team," said Mike Loooper, Extension dairy specialist.

Brandon Covey will coach the team when he joins NMSU's research staff in January as a graduate student in Animal and Range Sciences. He plans to take the new judging team to five competitions in the next year, including the Fort Worth Stock Show, which takes place in January, a few weeks after the team forms.

The team's travel expenses will be sponsored by Southwest Dairy museum. The museum also partners with NMSU's Cooperative Extension Service on the Kids, Cows and More project, a program designed to teach urban children about agriculture.

Covey is no novice at starting a dairy judging team. As a student at Oklahoma State University, where he received a bachelor's degree in agricultural communications, Covey helped revive a judging team that had been defunct for several years.

Covey was All-American Dairy Judge at the 1996 World Dairy Expo in Madison, Wis. Loooper said the Madison competition is widely regarded in the dairy industry as the premier dairy show and contest.

Covey and Loooper are already recruiting members for the judging team, which will be made up of students in Covey's spring and fall dairy cattle evaluation classes.

## Dines, Sachse receive NAE4-HA Awards

Two NMSU Extension faculty were recognized Nov. 4-9 during the National Association of Extension 4-H Agents conference in Denver, Colo.

Margaret Dines, Grant County home economist, received the Distinguished Service Award given to a professional who has served seven or more years in Extension youth programs. She is a 28-year Extension veteran.

"Margaret provides a wide variety of programming for youth and adult audiences," said Shelly Porter, Colfax County home economist and president of the New Mexico Association of Extension 4-H Agents. "She reached more than 1,750 citizens this year while conducting over 150 educational workshops."

Elliot Sachse, Bernalillo County 4-H agent, was presented with the Achievement in Service Award for members who are active in Extension youth programs and have worked for the Extension for three to seven years.

Sachse also was honored as a national winner in the individual educational piece category for the development of a new sports fitness 4-H project, available this year for 4-H youth throughout New Mexico.

"With a focus on agriculture and leadership skills, Elliot has developed comprehensive educational opportunities through a variety of programming," Porter said. ❖

## Dormody receives honorary FFA degree

Tom Dormody, head of Agricultural and Extension Education, received an honorary national FFA degree Oct. 27 in Louisville, Ky. The degree, FFA's highest award, recognizes those who greatly contribute to the advancement of agricultural education and provide outstanding service to their local program and community.

Dormody, a full professor, has contributed to FFA through career development events from extemporaneous public speaking to state poultry contests. He is a life member of the FFA alumni and received

a New Mexico honorary state FFA degree in 1993. Since 1994, Dormody has secured the Carl Perkins grant for more than \$648,000 in funding for state FFA leadership activities. He also has been an adviser to NMSU's chapter of collegiate FFA since 1989.

"There's nothing more important among my responsibilities than ensuring that FFA members in New Mexico have access to high quality leadership activities" Dormody said. "It's a thrill to be recognized for something I love to do, supporting FFA." ❖

## Fletcher outstanding senior

Stacie Fletcher was selected to receive the NMSU Alumni Association's Fall 2000 Outstanding Senior Award for the College of Agriculture and Home Economics.

Fletcher, an animal science major, will graduate with honors. She has been on the Dean's List and is a Crimson Scholar. She was a Regents' scholarship recipient for eight semesters and a Wal-Mart scholarship

recipient for four years. She received the Hafford P. Stetson Scholarship as an incoming freshman.

While at NMSU, Fletcher was a member of the equestrian team, Pre-Vet Club, Phi Kappa Phi and Campus Crusade for Christ.

After graduation, she plans to work with Campus Crusade for Christ and is considering graduate work in animal science. ❖

# Conference highlights partnerships

“Building Partnerships” will be the theme for All-College Conference Jan. 2-5 at the Hilton Las Cruces. Registration forms are due by Thursday, Dec. 14.

Activities kick off Tuesday, Jan. 2, with a golf scramble at 11:30 a.m. and a bowling extravaganza at 3:30 p.m. This year’s schedule will allow faculty and staff to participate in both events, said planning committee member Natalie Goldberg.

Wednesday’s program begins with a poster session. This year, an optional competition has been added for posters that highlight a successful partnership, Goldberg said.

Jay Gogue, NMSU president, will speak to the group following the poster session.

Classified staff may attend the Fred Pryor seminar on management skills, which begins at 9 a.m.

Three panel discussions will focus on building partnerships for arid lands, with industry and in communities. At 2 p.m., the three panels will hold breakout sessions on their topics.

At 3:15 p.m., participants can attend one of three discussion groups: Q & A with the dean, improving undergraduate retention, or promotion and tenure issues.

The banquet begins at 7 p.m. in the Hilton ballroom. Steve Bridges, a California comedian, will entertain with impersonations ranging from George Bush and Al Gore to Jack Nicholson and Elmer Fudd.

Thursday’s schedule features a full Extension program and a morning faculty session, “Test Driving WebCT” for those inter-

ested in teaching via the World Wide Web. To register for WebCT, contact Steve Leask at 646-5129 or scholars@nmsu.edu.

Billy Dictson, associate dean and Extension director, will open the Extension session. Following that, Patrick Torres will give an update on the National Association of County Agricultural Agents conference in Albuquerque on August 5-9, 2001.

A Service Awards luncheon will honor faculty and staff who celebrated milestone work anniversaries of five to 35 years.

Extension’s Report to the President will begin at 1:30 p.m. President Gogue will make remarks afterward.

Association meetings for Extension specialists, agriculture agents, and family and consumer sciences faculty are at 3:15 p.m. 4-H agents will meet at 5 p.m.

Friday’s program begins with an Epsilon Sigma Phi breakfast meeting at 7 a.m. Extension department heads will give 15-minute updates on program highlights beginning at 8:30 a.m.

“Because we have multiple disciplines among our faculty, we want to focus on communication to make sure we’re all aware of what others in our fields are doing,” said Jaime Castillo, staff development specialist. From 10:30 to 11:30, faculty and staff from each Extension department will be on hand for informal consultations, he added.

Lowell Catlett, Extension economist and renowned speaker, will close out the conference with a departing message at noon. ❖

# Nuñez retires

Andy Nuñez will retire Jan. 12 as legislative liaison with NMSU’s College of Agriculture and Home Economics. He was recently elected state representative for district 36 in northern Doña Ana County.

“Now that I am not a lobbyist, I will be able to cast a vote and I also will be able to ask questions,” Nuñez said.

Nuñez has asked to serve on the agriculture and water resources, and the taxation and revenue committees.

“I am looking forward to seeing changes in agricultural water laws and accountability of school systems from the university level through kindergarten, from the top administrators to the teachers,” he said.

Nuñez served two tours at NMSU, first in the 1970s as director and project coordinator with International Programs. He returned in 1991 as legislative liaison. He was the first director of the college’s Rural Agricultural Improvement and Public Affairs Project funded by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.

Nuñez also has worked in the animal science and dairy departments and Agricultural Services at NMSU.

He received his bachelor’s and master’s degrees in animal science from NMSU.

# DelCampo earns sports counselor certification

Robert DelCampo, professor in Family and Consumer Sciences, recently received certification as a sports counselor from the National Institute of Sports.

“As a member I am now listed in the national register of sports

counselors and can perform counseling with athletes,” he said.

To qualify, applicants must be currently licensed mental health professionals with documented experience working with athletes. Knowledge, participation and

coaching experience with one or more sports also must be shown.

DelCampo now can place CSC, certified sports counselor, after his name. ❖

## In Memoriam

Paul Trujillo, a retired Rio Arriba County Extension agent, died Nov. 26 in Arroyo Seco. He was 83.

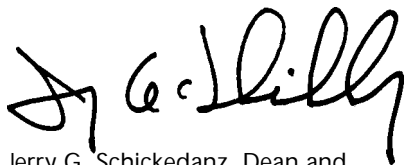
Trujillo had worked in Rio Arriba County for 32 years before retiring in 1981. He received his bachelor's degree from NMSU and his master's degree from Colorado State University.

Trujillo was a survivor of the Bataan Death March during World War II. He spent the rest of the war as a prisoner of war in a Japanese prison camp. At the war's end, Japanese civilians released Trujillo, and after regaining his strength, he returned home.

Trujillo was a member of the Disabled American Veterans and Veterans of Foreign Wars. He was buried at the National Cemetery in Santa Fe. He is survived by his wife Lydia, four children and three granddaughters.

The Leading Object is dedicated to encouraging communication among all areas of NMSU's College of Agriculture and Home Economics.

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## Houghton ag person of the year

Woods Houghton, acting program director and Extension agricultural agent, was named Eddy County's Outstanding Ag Person of the Year. The award was given at the Eddy County Farm and Livestock Bureau's annual meeting Oct. 28.

Houghton also was nominated for Eddy County Citizen of the Year.

"It is a great honor, considering everyone else nominated had been in the community for 30 to 40 years and I have only been here for 10," Houghton said.

Houghton serves on a variety of agricultural organizations, including the Chamber of Commerce's tourism committee, local soil and water conservation district, Pecos Valley Cot-

ton Boll Weevil Control District and Pecos Valley Water User's Organization and Land Use Committee.

He is currently involved with several water issues in Eddy County, including regional water planning. He also is working on ratification of boll weevil control districts.

Houghton previously worked for the U.S. Forest Service, Entomology, Plant Pathology and Weed Science as a research assistant and the DeBaca County Extension Service as an agricultural 4-H agent.

Houghton received his bachelor's degree in range sciences and his master's degree in interdisciplinary studies from NMSU. ❖

## Jimenez earns certification

Josie Jimenez, contract administrator for Business and Resource Planning, completed requirements to become a certified research administrator by the National Council of University Research Administrators (NCURA) organization.

"This certification provides Josie recognition among peers both here at NMSU and across the nation," said Tim Nesbitt, director of Busi-

ness and Resource Planning. "It also allows her the opportunity to participate in continuing education and to develop a higher degree of professionalism."

Jimenez was elected region VII secretary/treasurer for NCURA. She received her bachelor's degree in human resource management from NMSU in 1989. ❖

## Judd new at Los Ojos office

Stacy Judd of La Pine, Ore., recently began work as the new 4-H Extension agent in Rio Arriba County at Los Ojos.

Judd's duties will include planning county activities, working with the county fair and educating 4-H leaders.

"My goal is to expand the 4-H program in New Mexico," Judd said.

Judd received her bachelor's degree in agriculture and resource economics from Eastern Oregon University and her master's degree in agriculture from Oregon State University. She is a member of the Northwest Professional Rodeo Association and the National Barrel Horse Association. She previously worked for Beneficial Oregon Inc. ❖