

*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*



NMSU's College of Agriculture and Home Economics

Vol. 15, No. 10, October 2001

## Enrollment tops 1,500

Undergraduate enrollment in the College of Agriculture and Home Economics passed the 1,500 mark for the first time in 24 years as the college fell six short of an all-time high number with 1,522. With the 2.28 percent increase over year-ago figures, the college is no longer the smallest in undergraduate numbers at NMSU.

The college had 34 more undergraduates than last fall. Family and Consumer Sciences increased by 43 undergraduates during the same period, bringing undergraduate enrollment in the department to 380, the largest in the college.

## CHE ranks college programs #1, #3

Programs from NMSU's College of Agriculture and Home Economics took two of the top three slots in the Commission on Higher Education's 2001 Evaluations Report for Research and Public Service Projects. The detailed ratings were released Sept. 11 at the commission's finance committee meeting.

"I am exceptionally proud of the results of the assessment, placing the Cooperative Extension Service and the Agricultural Experiment Station in the top three research and public service programs among 38 that they assessed," said Jerry Schickedanz, dean and chief administrative officer.

Extension tied for first in the rankings and the Experiment Station tied for the next place. The

two programs were among only five rated as exceeding expectations. Ratings were based on 10 criteria ranging from strategic planning to internal evaluation and measurable outcomes.

"This is very important in demonstrating that we are not just going through the motions with the dollars allocated to us," Schickedanz said. "We are thoughtful about our goals and how we achieve them. This is an important message to our elected officials and their staff members as we look to strengthen the base of these programs.

"I want to thank everyone for the hard work they have invested in our mission and for those who have helped us articulate what we do to the commission and others who receive reports on our progress." ❖

## The Dean's Perspective

These are times of calamity and uncertainty in America. Tragedy has wrought fear of war, further terrorism, market declines and even fear that our college funding sources will be affected. There is no question that we need to plan carefully for new realities we will face as individuals and as an institution. First, let's concentrate on those things that are vital.

Unity as a nation has to be our first priority, and unity begins at home. Our college is made up of faculty, staff and students from many walks of life, many beliefs, many cultures and many nations.

We need to make sure that we don't define "American" as being "just like me." It is tolerance and protection of differences that is the essence of America. That is the source of our unity. I want to laud the public statements to this effect made by Jake Hill and Kelly Jones, president and vice president of Associated Students of NMSU. I am proud that they are majors in our college who have been active in the college's student groups.

Beyond this, we need to offer those who are on the front lines of protecting our way of life our full support, whether they be active

military, reservists, National Guard, police or others charged with enhancing our security. As a veteran, I know that public support is something that these individuals can feel down to their toes.

I trust in the maturity of our college community in the face of these trying times. As horrible as the events of Sept. 11 and their aftermath have been, it feels better than ever to be an American.

## Aggie Pond renovations planned

Fall renovations are planned to improve the condition of Aggie Pond.

"The pond has filled with organic matter that creates anaerobic conditions and a foul smell," said Jon Boren, Extension wildlife specialist and chairman of a committee studying improvements. "The pond also has been overrun with aquatic vegetation."

Plans call for the pond to be drained and the silt and plant matter removed with a Bobcat loader, Boren said. That will allow crews from the Physical Plant Department to check the condition of the liner. If it is intact, the pond could be refilled. Otherwise, it will be replaced.

Once cleaning and repairs have been finished, the pond will be restocked with plants and fish, Boren said.

"The college's goal is to improve the health and aesthetics of the pond and provide long-term integrity of the system," said Dean Jerry Schickedanz. "The primary idea is to provide an appealing place for students, faculty and staff to enjoy and a place to relax."

If you have any thoughts on the pond, please send them to the dean.

## Fresh Flowers on Fridays

**Brighten your day  
(or someone else's!)**

Gerald Thomas Hall lobby,  
beginning at 8:30 a.m.

Proceeds support floriculture students

## Homecoming activities set

Homecoming events Oct. 11-13 in the College of Agriculture and Home Economics will include decorating contests and receptions for alumni and scholarship donors. This year's theme is "NMSU Salutes the Space Age."

The college's alumni and donors breakfast is scheduled at 7:30 a.m. on Friday, Oct. 12 in the livestock pavilion. Three alumni from the college will be honored that afternoon at 3:30 p.m. on the Skeen Hall patio.

Ralph Dunlap, retired Lincoln County Extension agent, is the college's 2001 Distinguished Alumnus. Alejandro Ramirez, director general of agriculture for the state of Chihuahua, Mexico, will be honored as both the college and university's 2001 International Distinguished Alumnus. Steve Banegas, a biotechnology pioneer who died May 24, will be honored posthumously.

Dunlap, who grew up on a ranch near Lordsburg, N.M., said that studying agriculture was the natural thing to do. He earned a bachelor's degree in agriculture and a master's degree in agricultural and extension education, both from NMSU.

Dunlap began his NMSU Extension career in 1948. He served as the assistant county Extension agent in Colfax County before transferring to Lincoln County in 1952, where he served for 30 years. He now has a shop in Lincoln, N.M., where he spins and weaves wool products.

Ramirez earned a bachelor's degree in animal science from NMSU. A native of Mexico, he came to the United States in the 1970s.

"Because of the political instability of the University of Chihuahua, I made the commitment to study animal science in the United States," Ramirez said. "After looking at undergraduate programs from different universities, I decided to attend New Mexico State University."

In 1998, Ramirez was appointed director general of agriculture for the state of Chihuahua.

Banegas combined his interest in biotechnology and experience in business to become a successful entrepreneur. After earning a bachelor's degree in general agriculture from NMSU, he began his career as a field sales representative for Ciba-Geigy. He later was founding president of Agri-Diagnostics/Quantix, which developed biotechnology-based tests for agricultural and environmental contaminants.

Banegas was founder of Dominion BioSciences, a Virginia-based company that creates and markets environmentally friendly pesticides. Family members will accept medals in his honor during the distinguished alumni reception.

During the week, faculty, staff and students can get involved in homecoming door-decorating and pumpkin carving contests.

Each department or office may pick up a free pumpkin for the carving contest from 9 to 10 a.m. on Monday, Oct. 8 near Aggie Pond.

Pumpkins will be issued on a first-come, first-served basis. Extra pumpkins will be available at the end of the second hour. No more than five pumpkins may be given to a department.

Pumpkins should be placed in the hallway to the right of the door for judging at 2 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 11. Pumpkins will be rated in four categories: funniest, scariest, most original and overall. Winners will receive a fruit basket.

Door displays may extend up to 5 feet on both sides of the door but halls must be clear of obstructions. Winning offices will have their names engraved on a traveling trophy. Honorable mentions will receive a fruit basket.

Winners will be announced at the distinguished alumni reception.

For more information about these events, please call the Dean's Office at 646-3748. ❖

## Bachman wins Kellogg fellowship

Kari Bachman, nutrition program coordinator with Extension Home Economics, received a national Food and Society Policy fellowship supported by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.

Bachman is participating in a study tour of community-based food and agriculture systems in Europe in early October. She also will meet with leaders in Washington, D.C., who work in food and agricultural policy.

Bachman is among 12 people selected for the two-year fellowship. More than 80 people from across the nation submitted applications. Fellows will write food and agricultural articles and participate in policy forums and conferences.

The fellowships are designed to improve communications about food and agricultural issues in the

United States by helping consumers and leaders to better understand the issues and challenges of sustaining family farms and food production.

Bachman has worked as the coordinator for New Mexico's Ideas for Cooking and Nutrition (I-CAN) program, which employs paraprofessional educators to teach hands-on nutrition classes for adults and youth with limited resources.

Bachman also has a background in agricultural, extension and health education. She has contributed to videos, CD-ROMs and curricula, most of which are available in Spanish and some in Navajo.

The fellowship program is administered by the Thomas Jefferson Agricultural Institute of Columbia, Mo., in partnership with the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy of Minneapolis, Minn. ❖

## Gonzalez interim vice provost

I. Miley Gonzalez, associate dean and director of the Agricultural Experiment Station for NMSU's College of Agriculture and Home Economics, has been appointed interim vice provost for research.

Gonzalez will serve in the post while a search is conducted for a permanent vice provost for research.

The position had been held by Gary Cunningham, who recently became associate administrator for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service in Washington, D.C.

Gonzalez rejoined the university this year after nearly four years as the USDA's undersecretary for research, education and economics. Before accepting the federal appointment in 1997, he served as assistant dean and deputy director of the Cooperative Extension Service from 1994 to 1996, head of the agri-

cultural and extension education department from 1991 to 1994, and director of the college's international programs from 1992 to 1994.

"We are fortunate to have someone with Dr. Gonzalez's capabilities to take on these responsibilities on an interim basis," Provost William Flores said. "A national search will begin shortly chaired by Dean Jay Jordan of the College of Engineering. We hope to conclude the search process and appoint a permanent vice provost by May 2002."

LeRoy Daugherty, associate director of the Experiment Station, will serve as its interim director, Dean Jerry Schickedanz said. Daugherty served as interim associate director of the Experiment Station from August 1997 to March 2001. He headed Agronomy and Horticulture from 1986 to 1997. ❖

## Home economists recognized

The National Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences honored several New Mexicans during their annual session Sept. 30–Oct. 4 in Portland, Ore.

Darlene Dickson, state 4-H specialist and former Curry County agent/home economics, received the Distinguished Service Award. The award, given to a member of at least 10 years, recognizes leadership, educational programming efforts and professional development.

Imelda Garcia, Santa Fe County agent/home economics, received the Continued Excellence Award for members who have been active in professional improvement, promotion of personal development and encouraging leadership in others. The CEA is awarded to a member of at least 12 years who has previously received a Distinguished Service Award.

Four other members from New Mexico received regional awards.

Linda Sue Wells of San Juan County won a Florence Hall award for a "train the trainers" workshop about using the vitamin folate to prevent birth defects. Wells also was named the region's outstanding new professional.

Connie Moyers of Roosevelt County won a first place regional award for her monthly newsletter. Moyers tied for first place in educational publications for a dietary guide to help clients reduce their fat intake.

Patricia Aaron of Bernalillo County won a first place regional award in television for a story about handwashing's role in preventing the spread of infections. She placed second for her "New Mexico's Own" column in the food section of the *Albuquerque Journal*.

Betty McCreight of Lincoln County was second in overhead transparencies for a series on high-altitude cooking.

# Fry, Hutchins honored by NAE 4H-A

The National Association of Extension 4-H Agents will recognize one current and one former NMSU faculty member with service awards during the national meeting Oct. 21-26 in Bismark, N.D.

Juli Hutchins, Valencia County 4-H agent, will receive the Achievement in Service Award for a member of three to seven years who is involved in Extension youth programs.

Hutchins' programs and projects focus on training and leadership development.

Sandra Fry, former Eddy County home economist, will receive the Distinguished Service Award, for a member of at least seven years who is involved in Extension youth programs.

Fry, currently an Extension agent in Texas, focused on encouraging and developing youth programs in area schools, as well as community education in Eddy County. ❖

## Agents recognized at NACAA

Two New Mexicans were recognized during the National Association of County Agricultural Agents annual meeting in Albuquerque.

Patrick Torres, Santa Fe County program director and Extension agricultural agent, received the Distinguished Service Award for active members with outstanding accomplishments over at least 10 years.

Torres has served as an agricultural agent since 1988. His Extension programs include establishing a Master Gardener organization, helping develop the Valle Grande Grassbank project and working with fruit, livestock, hay and vegetable

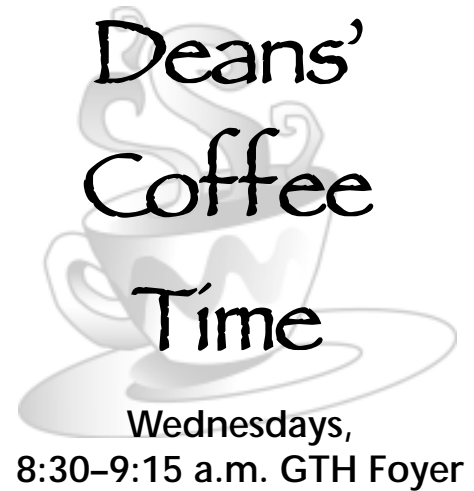
producers in Santa Fe County.

Torres was elected NACAA Western Region vice director in Sept. 2000, a two-year position. He served as the 2001 conference chair.

Tracy Drummond, Catron County program director and Extension agricultural agent, received the Achievement Award.

Drummond has served as an agricultural agent since 1993. His programs have focused on public land policy, wildlife, and beef cattle nutrition, marketing and reproduction efficiency.

He is a past president of the New Mexico Association of 4-H Agents. ❖



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

Department of Agricultural  
Communications  
NMSU, MSC 3AI  
Las Cruces, NM 88003-8003  
(505) 646-2701  
Rm. 173, Gerald Thomas Hall

Jerry G. Schickedanz, Dean and  
Chief Administrative Officer



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## Need to meet with the dean?

**No appointments necessary on Fridays, 3-5 p.m.\***

\*Occasionally the dean is called away,  
but time is blocked for drop-ins.