

*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. 16, No. 11, November 2002

Academic Programs search committee selected

A job description for associate dean and associate director of Academic Programs is being finalized with input from a 15-member screening committee that will review applications. Chair Jaime Castillo, staff development director, said the group would develop a timeline for the search at its next meeting.

Elected committee members are Dean Hawkins, Animal and Range Sciences; Dave Thompson, Entomology, Plant Pathology and Weed Science; Bill Lindemann, Agronomy and Horticulture; and Esther Devall,

Family and Consumer Sciences.

Appointed representatives are Carlos Rosencrans, Agricultural and Extension Education; Raul Valdez, Fishery and Wildlife Sciences; Connie Falk, Agricultural Economics and Agricultural Business; Priscilla Bloomquist, Hotel, Restaurant and Tourism Management; Mark Wise, department head; Ron Byford, Extension department head; Terri Giron, staff; Brad Hale, student; Genieve Sanchez, student; Nancy Flores, Extension Home Economics; and Geno Picchioni, at-large member. ❖

Extension Day at Legislature planned Feb. 18

Extension Day at the Legislature on Feb. 18 will include public events and individual meetings to familiarize state legislators with Extension's mission, accomplishments and needs.

Plans call for reading of a proclamation and comments from the governor and Extension supporters in the capitol rotunda, said Jaime Castillo, staff development specialist, who is helping organize the event.

Extension supporters, including Extension Support Council members, student ambassadors and members of the State 4-H Leadership team will meet with individual legislators or members of their staffs.

The Dean's Perspective

The past month has been inspiring for our college and the university. Homecoming honored a true red Aggie, Bill Cantrell, as the College of Agriculture and Home Economics' Distinguished Alumnus. Bill has been honored by NMSU before and he is well deserving of this latest award. Once again, our college had one of its alumni receive the university's Distinguished International Alumnus Award. Nasser Al-Aulaqi is president of a university the size of Ohio State University, located in Yemen. We are proud to have him as an agricultural economics graduate.

Our students topped things off by winning the homecoming parade float competition for the theme, "Decades of Tradition" by featuring the land-grant college tradition of NMSU.

The following week, we honored Gerald Thomas with the unveiling of a plaque in the lobby of the building named in his honor before members of his old torpedo plane squadron.

Later that week was Agriculture Appreciation Day. That morning, we remembered the lives of Hazel and Ulysses McElyea at a festive celebration during which we named the beautiful courtyard flanked by the wings of Sken Hall in their honor. Everyone there learned what giving lives they lived.

At the football game that day, the giving nature of the late Tom and Evelyn Linebery lived on as their foundation contributed \$2.7 million to create two chairs in the Range Improvement Task Force. It was the single largest cash donation to the university, and the

half-time crowd showed their appreciation for the support.

The Aggie football team completed its first undefeated home stand since 1967 and set attendance records. An important part of the attendance records was student leadership in filling the student section of the stadium. At the last home game, Jake Hill, a student in our college and ASNMSU president for the past two years, was honored for leading this new Aggie spirit. He has truly made a difference.

The past month will be hard to top, but I hope we will someday.

Extension director screening committee chosen

Ron Parker, head of Extension Animal Resources, is chairing a screening committee that will review applications from candidates for associate dean and associate Extension director.

Elected members are Martha Archuleta, state specialist, home economics; Sandra Barraza, 4-H county agricultural agent; Jon Boren, state agricultural specialist; and Charlie Siepel, county agricultural agent.

Appointed representatives are Jennifer Hopper, county home economics faculty; Bea Garrett, staff; Gerald Chacon, Extension department head; Edmund Gomez, off-campus Extension; Gerald Moore, Native American programs; Barbara Wise, development office; Larry Hobson, Extension Support Council; Sandra Corriveau, grant programs; Grant Kinzer, academic department and Experiment Station.

Dean receives honorary American FFA degree

Dean Jerry G. Schickedanz received an honorary American FFA degree Nov. 1 for his contributions to youth through agricultural education. He accepted the degree at the 75th National FFA Convention in Louisville, Ky.

Schickedanz was one of only 97 FFA supporters nationwide to be nominated. The national FFA Board of Directors approved his selection.

The award recognizes personal commitment in making a long-term difference in the lives of students and inspiring confidence in a new generation of agriculturists.

FFA, a national organization of more than 450,000 members, prepares students for careers in the science, business and technology of agriculture.♣

AXED Club wins national award

NMSU's Agricultural and Extension Education Club won a national award of excellence for having the strongest collegiate program of activities from Alpha Tau Alpha, honorary agricultural education fraternity.

The award was based on community service, professional development, fundraising and fellowship. The club also received the award for strongest organization in the fellowship category at the ATA Conclave and National FFA Convention in Louisville, Ky., Oct. 30-Nov. 2.

NMSU's team of Justin Armenta, Melissa Booky, Julie Bostick and Andy Giron placed fourth in the national ATA Debate Contest, beating Pennsylvania State in the first debate but falling to Northwest Missouri State in the second.

Tom Dormody was voted national

ATA president-elect. Retiring ATA officers from NMSU were Carlos Rosencrans, national secretary; Bostick, national student secretary/treasurer; Dormody, national second vice president; and Giron, national student second vice president.

Giron and Dormody coordinated the National Collegiate Agricultural Education Contests, which included the quiz bowl, essay contest, debate and program of excellence award.

Armenta, Booky, Bostick and Giron helped with the college recruiting booth at the National FFA Career Show. Jimmy Plane and Genieve Sanchez, student ambassadors for the College of Agriculture and Home Economics, staffed the booth for the full three days with program coordinator Kristy Langley from Academic Programs.♣

Agents honored at NACAA conference

New Mexico Extension agents received career and communications awards at the National Association of County Agricultural Agents meeting in Savannah, Ga.

Albert Lyon of Sierra County was honored as New Mexico's Distinguished Service Award recipient.

Rick Daniell, Extension horticultural

agent from Bernalillo County, received the Achievement Award.

In communications competition, Jeff Bader of Quay County was a regional finalist for individual newsletter. Sandra Barraza of Colfax County was a state winner for personal column.♣



Wednesdays, 8:30-9:15 a.m.
GTH Foyer

4-H agents, specialists recognized

4-H agents and specialists from New Mexico collected awards and made presentations at the National Association of Extension 4-H Agents, Oct. 27-31, in Norfolk, Va.

Darlene Dickson, state 4-H specialist, was New Mexico's Distinguished Service Award winner. Connie Moyers of Roosevelt County received the Achievement in Service Award.

Glenda Belcher of Curry County won a national award for individual educational piece. Lisa Garcia of Santa Fe County won a regional award for periodical publication.

Dickson led an NMSU team that won first for an educational package in Western regional competi-

tion with the 4-H Pies and Pastry project. Team members were Lisa McKee of Family and Consumer Sciences; J. Victor Espinoza of Agricultural Communications; Sarah G. Holguin, photography intern; Ana Henke, Agricultural Communications; Shelly Porter, Colfax County; Owida Franz, Union County; Betty McCreight, Lincoln County; and Margaret Dines, Grant County.

Linda Schultz of the State 4-H Office helped present a session on a Western volunteer recruitment marketing campaign. Dickson was a panelist for a session on the Western 4-H Institute's new agent training. ❖

Home economists honored

New Mexico's Extension home economists received awards for service, communications and educational programs at the recent National Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences conference Oct. 6-10 in Kansas City, Mo.

Shelly Porter of Colfax County was the state's Distinguished Service Award winner. The award, given to a member of at least 10 years, recognizes leadership, educational programming and professional development.

Glenda Belcher of Curry County won a first in regional competition for educational curriculum package for Creative Touches, a guide to embellishing ready-made garments. Team leader Connie Moyers of Roosevelt County and Belcher won a regional first for their diabetes newsletter.

Brenda Bishop of Quay County was second in regional competition for educational publications for Bean Magic, a guide to the versatility and nutritional value of beans. She was third in educational technology for a PowerPoint presentation on the nutritional value of chocolate.

A team of home economists, led by Linda Wells, were regional final-

ists for the Florence Hall Award for organizing Kitchen Creations cooking schools for people with diabetes. The award is presented for an outstanding program conducted by one or more members who have been alert in recognizing new concerns and interests of families.

Team members were Patricia Aaron and Virginia Alexander, Bernalillo County; Shannon Wooton, Chaves County; Shelly Porter, Colfax County; Glenda Belcher, Curry County; Pamela Henry and Gayla Weaver, Doña Ana County; Margaret Dines, Grant County; Ruth Jones, Lea County; Betty McCreight, Lincoln County; Lana Schulte, Los Alamos County; Kathryn Ritterbusch, Luna County; Mindy Denny, Otero County; Brenda Bishop, Quay County; Roberta Rios, Rio Arriba County; Connie Moyers, Roosevelt County; Charolette Collins, Sandoval County; Imelda Garcia, Santa Fe County; Sandy Cassen, Cibola County; Owida Franz, Union County; and Carolynn Wilson, Valencia County.

Franz's community partnership and Bishop's early childhood care training won state awards. ❖

Fund-raiser helps judging teams

Supporters helped raise almost \$4,500 for animal science judging teams at a dinner, auction and dance at the New Mexico Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum in Las Cruces.

About 75 people took part in the first-ever "For Good Reasons" event Oct. 26.

"We want to create an endowed fund that will provide judging scholarships for students from New Mexico to keep them in state," said Mark Wise, head of Animal and Range Sciences. "Our second goal is to provide funding for team travel, practice stock or workout trips."

The fund-raiser benefited NMSU's livestock, horse, and wool and mohair judging teams.

"Judging helps students develop communication and leadership skills that they typically don't get in the classroom," Wise said. "They have to evaluate the classes, organize their thoughts and then present a rationale as they give oral reasons for their placings."

The Desperados, a country swing band, provided dance music following the meal of brisquet and enchiladas. A live auction featured items from across the state, including pronghorn and black buck antelope hunts, mohair blankets and artwork from area artists. A silent auction included items donated by local merchants.

Agronomy and Horticulture honors Ross

Departmental secretary Paula Ross was honored with the first Agronomy and Horticulture award given to a staff member.

Department head Jim Fisher presented the award to Ross for her outstanding support of the department over the years and for her willingness to give up her weekends to help with new student orientation.

Ross received a \$250 check and a plaque. Horticulture Forum and the Environmental Science Student

Organization donated money for the award.

She is the fourth recipient of the departmental awards, which are given to faculty and staff members for outstanding contributions.

Ross started at NMSU as a workstudy before taking a full-time job as a report/layout typist in Animal and Range Sciences. She has been with Agronomy and Horticulture since 1987.

She was a member of the original committee that established the

classified staff scholarship. In 1998, she received the Distinguished Classified Staff Award from the College of Agriculture and Home Economics. She has served nine years on the Advisory Council on Administrative Policy, seven as secretary. Her ACAP committee work has included co-chairing the annual employee picnic and serving on the Personnel Grievance Board for classified staff.

Andreasen takes FFA to Turkmenistan

Future Farmers of Turkmenistan chapters could soon sprout throughout the former Soviet republic, thanks to the efforts of Randy Andreasen, new assistant professor in Agricultural and Extension Education.

As part of a Winrock International project, Andreasen has helped start FFT clubs in four of the country's five states. After checking in with NMSU student teachers across the state, he traveled to Turkmenistan in late October to meet with top-ranking officials and make presentations to university students and schoolchildren.

"We did lots of leadership development work with individuals, small groups and classes," Andreasen said. "Because the Soviet teaching tradition was a very rigid, lecture-only approach, getting students to do hands-on leadership exercises was an idea that took them by storm. We've been invited back to do some work on innovative teaching methods."

The minister of agriculture and deputy minister of education are eager to build "human capital" in

Turkmenistan, where 80 percent of the population is involved in agriculture and students take a two-month break from school to pick cotton, he said.

Andreasen said a number of universities, including NMSU, have done agricultural outreach projects in Turkmenistan. In fact, one host proudly displayed an irrigation exchange certificate from Craig Runyan of Extension Plant Sciences.

But the current project's emphasis on leadership development in youth ages 10 to 24 is a new approach.

Andreasen, whose own children have participated in FFA and 4-H, believes successful American youth organizations can be adapted to meet Turkmenistan's needs. "I've seen what a difference these groups can make in the lives of students here in the states, who have a lot," he said. "I'm optimistic about the impact it can have on students who have so little."

Currently, FFT chapters meet outside school, similar to American 4-H clubs. Andreasen hopes to see FFT courses offered in schools in a FFA-like format. Other goals are to

work with teachers, organize a national FFT convention and arrange exchanges with former FFA members and host families in Turkmenistan.

"I appreciate the support from administration and my department to allow me to take part in this project," he said. "I've gained professionally and personally and I owe it to the students here to bring that experience back to the classroom. I hope they will appreciate that these ideas have worldwide application, not just in the classroom or in an FFA office here."

Andreasen, who is functionally literate in Spanish, took students on annual trips to Costa Rica while he was at Southwest Missouri State University. His teaching experience includes three years as an assistant professor there, a year at Iowa State University and seven years as a high school agriculture teacher in Utah.

He earned bachelor's and master's degrees in agricultural education from Utah State University. His doctorate in agricultural education is from Iowa State University. ❖

Bayer brings international perspective to hospitality students

Assistant professor Ayhan Bayer handed a tall, curved “talking stick” to hotel, restaurant and tourism management majors this fall, a symbol of his personalized approach and international point of view.

“The talking stick has been used in many cultures through history to show that someone has the group’s attention and to help that person overcome hesitation about speaking in public,” Bayer said.

“I asked the students to introduce themselves while holding the stick and to tell the class their goals: that they will be successful hotel managers, restaurant managers or business owners. It was a nice beginning to establish self-esteem for participating in class discussions.”

Already, students in Bayer’s financial and information technology classes have come to expect the unexpected. If a cell phone rings in class, he may teach them how to answer it in Japanese.

“When I was a hotel general manager, I knew how to say hello in about 30 languages,” said Bayer, who is fluent in Turkish and German. “Greeting guests in their own language makes them feel comfortable.”

Bayer’s industry experience includes working as a tour guide for international tour organizations and hotel manager for international resorts. As an information technology consultant, he has created customized databases and interfaces and designed and maintained World Wide Web sites.

His particular interests are e-commerce and distance education. He has earned technology certifications from Hospitality Financial and Technology Professionals and the American Hotel and Lodging Association, credentials held by only a few hundred people.

Bayer is an editorial advisory council member for the *Journal of Hospitality Financial and Technology Professionals*. He served as editor of *Tourism and Hospitality Review* at George Washington University’s International Institute for Tourism Studies.

Bayer completed doctoral coursework at Virginia Tech and is writing his dissertation. His master’s degree in tourism administration is from the International Institute of Tourism Studies at George Washington University. His bachelor’s degree in tourism administration and hotel management is from Dokuz Eylul University in Aydin, Turkey.

“I love it here and want to have a long-term impact,” he said. “I would like to be here for a long time and help my new home, the State of New Mexico, as much as possible in the areas of hospitality, tourism and technology.”

Before coming to NMSU, Bayer had served as an information technology analyst reporting to the provost at Virginia Tech since 1997. His responsibilities included LAN and WAN networks, databases, software, hardware, Web sites and Internet development.✦

Belanus hired as Extension 4-H associate

Nicole Belanus was hired in October as a 4-H associate with the Bernalillo County Extension office. She will work with at-risk youth in Albuquerque’s Southeast Heights, a low-income, immigrant-heavy district that was previously the focus of 4-H Share/Care.

The Share/Care program, which ended last spring, offered substance abuse prevention education for elementary and middle school students through in-school and after-school activities. Belanus will continue some of the initiatives begun under Share/Care, such as coordinating a community garden in Trumbull Village, organizing after-school clubs and teaching a 4-H STARS substance abuse prevention course for fifth-graders at La Mesa and Emerson elementary schools.

Belanus hopes to draw Highland High School students into the program as mentors for younger children. She also plans to start an anger management program at Van Buren Middle School. “There are a lot of underserved, at-risk youth in the Southeast Heights who can really benefit from 4-H,” Belanus said.

Belanus received a liberal arts degree from Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Mich., in May 2000. She worked with high-school dropouts to help them develop life skills and find jobs as a youth advocate with SER de New Mexico in Albuquerque’s South Valley from November 2000 to October 2001. She also worked with developmentally disabled adults at Share Your Care Inc. in Albuquerque from November 2001 to July 2002.

College programs featured in national impact sheets

Several College of Agriculture and Home Economics programs are highlighted in the 2002 Science and Impact fact sheets that inform federal legislators about the benefits of the partnership between the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the nation's land-grant universities.

Extension's efforts following Sept. 11, which included a town hall meeting and creation of a state Crisis Response Communications network, are featured in two impact statements about tackling terrorism and coping with crisis and disaster.

The success of New Mexico Works also is mentioned in two impact statements—one that highlights creative solutions to the economic challenges of change and another about participating in the global economy's rural renaissance.

The Chile Pepper Task Force's work is cited in an impact report about how the land-grant partnership is working to retain international markets and discover new ones.

Wanda Morgan's pecan consumption study is featured as an example of land-grant university

research on dietary changes to reduce chronic diseases.

These and other impacts entered in the national database can be found on the World Wide Web at www.reeusda.gov/success/impact.htm

If you have a research, Extension or academic program that shows impact on people, the environment or the economy, please contact Natalie Johnson in Agricultural Communications at 646-1163 for inclusion in the next national report.

Craig to lead IR-4 testing program

Maury Craig, former lab coordinator for Entomology, Plant Pathology and Weed Science, will lead NMSU's IR-4 field research center for food crops.

IR-4 is a publicly funded program for pesticide and biopesticide registrations for minor crops. Because of the costs of testing and registering pesticides, companies often focus on developing products for corn, wheat, soybeans and cotton, leaving growers of other minor crops without effective pest control options.

IR-4 researchers grow crops, apply pesticide treatments and collect samples that are analyzed for pesticide residue. The data is submitted

to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. "The emphasis is on finding safer types of pesticides for a wide spectrum of crops, especially vegetables, fruits and nuts," Craig said.

Nationally, minor crops account for 40 percent of the total value of U.S. crops. More than 30 food crops are grown in New Mexico.

This season, trials at the Leyendecker Plant Science Research Center have focused on about 10 different crops, including peppers, tomatoes, lettuce and cantaloupes.

"We want to work with crops that are important to New Mexico producers," said Craig, who began work in mid-October. "We want to

increase awareness of what we're doing and get input from growers."

Craig started at NMSU as a graduate assistant in 1985, working his way up to lab coordinator in 1998. Though he has been based at the Veterinary Entomology Research Laboratory, Craig has agronomic experience as supervisor for a row crop farm.

"I'm looking forward to the challenge of something different and for the chance to run the program," Craig said. He holds a bachelor's degree in wildlife management from the University of Missouri-Columbia and a master's degree in agricultural biology from NMSU. ❖

MackKay directs Ag Comm operations

Larry MacKay assumed the position of assistant director for operations in Agricultural Communications on Nov. 5. MacKay directs the print shop, mail services, distribution, electronic duplication, product sales, and Internet conferencing services.

"We are counting on Larry to establish well-organized business practices in his unit and to bring

focus to our marketing efforts," said Terry Canup, Agricultural Communications department head.

A 1985 graduate of Hardin Simmons University, MacKay has held several sales and management positions, including experience with printing equipment. He was a sales representative for Marklyn/Smith-Thompson from 1990 to

1998. Since then, he had been a teacher and coach in the El Paso Independent School District.

"His experience in developing sales plans and his experience as a teacher should help us market educational products and services in a way that we haven't seen up to now," Canup said. ❖

Palmer moves to Lincoln County Extension

Marsha Palmer brings experience in nutrition education, 4-H and workforce training programs to her new job as Extension home economics agent in Lincoln County. Her responsibilities include educational programs for both adults and youth.

Palmer began work Oct. 15 after transferring from Las Cruces, where she had served as assistant director of Extension's New Mexico Works welfare-to-work program since 1999.

"The community here is very receptive," she said. "I'm looking forward to working in the

Ruidoso area and to building on strong ties with rural communities in Lincoln County."

Palmer will write a weekly column with home economics ideas for the *Ruidoso News*.

Her other previous Extension experience includes working as a 4-H agent in Santa Fe County and as a home economist for Doña Ana County's Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program.

Palmer was director of resident services for University Terrace Good Samaritan Village in Las Cruces for a year and worked as a marketing consultant for Dairy

Max Inc. in El Paso and southern New Mexico for eight years. She was a public health nutritionist with the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program in Las Cruces for three years.

The Silver City native participated in 4-H while growing up. She earned a bachelor's degree in vocational home economics from Western New Mexico University in 1982. She earned a master's degree in family and consumer sciences from NMSU in 1990.

She has two grown sons, Jonathan and Michael. ❖

Zhang joins stellar NMSU cotton breeding program

NMSU's internationally respected cotton breeding program has a new leader. Jinfa Zhang, who came to the university from Monsanto's molecular cotton breeding program in Greenville, Miss., will work to integrate traditional breeding with cutting-edge biotechnology and molecular genetic research.

"Our focus will still be on improving Acala cotton fiber quality and yield, but we will be adding herbicide and insect resistance," Zhang said. Acala, one of the most popular varieties grown in New Mexico, has the longest staple among upland cottons. It is used in specialty clothing that requires soft, billowy textures.

Zhang will devote most of his time to managing the university's cotton breeding and genetics laboratory, in addition to teaching several courses in genetics and breeding. Meanwhile, his team of cotton breeding researchers will continue their work to identify molecular

markers for disease-resistant and heat-tolerant genes.

"If you have molecular markers associated with high yield, better fiber quality and resistance, you can accelerate your breeding process," he said. One near-term goal is to identify and transfer resistant genes for a parasitic worm called root-knot nematode into a cotton that New Mexico farmers can use.

Within the next two years, Zhang expects to have transferred the Bt gene to Acala 1517-99, which should significantly boost pink bollworm resistance. Bt is shorthand for *Bacillus thuringiensis*, an insecticidal bacterium marketed worldwide for control of many significant plant pests. Pests feeding on Bt cotton only have to ingest a small amount of the protein before they stop feeding and die. A devastating pest, the pink bollworm caterpillar enters bolls in immature stages, fouls forming fibers with a bright pink stain

and eventually destroys the cotton seeds.

In 1996, a study published in the academic journal *Crop Science* ranked NMSU's Agricultural Experiment Station among the nation's three most influential cotton breeding programs because of its genetic contribution to the U.S. upland varieties released between 1970 and 1990. Almost half the nation's new upland cotton varieties can trace their lineage back to NMSU.

A native of China's Hubei Province, Zhang grew up on a small rice farm. He earned bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees from Central China Agricultural University in agronomy and a second doctorate in cotton genetics and molecular biology from the University of Arkansas. Zhang is an assistant professor in Agronomy and Horticulture. ❖

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.

Ag Communications staff win ACE national awards

Agricultural Communications staff accepted awards and leadership roles at the Agricultural Communicators in Education national conference in Savannah, Ga.

Sam Steel Way, the alumni newsletter for the College of Agriculture and Home Economics, won a gold in national newsletter competition. Team members were Terry Canup, department head;

D'Lyn Ford, editor; Joanna Stith, graphic designer; Norman Martin, Anna Maria Perez-Wright and Kevin Robinson-Avila, writers; and Natalie Johnson, copy editor.

Stith and illustrator Jerry Downs won silver and bronze awards for photo illustrations.

Perez-Wright won a silver award for radio programs.

A media relations campaign for

the 2001 National Association of County Agricultural Agents conference in Albuquerque, led by Canup and Robinson-Avila, won a bronze.

At the meeting, Patrick Holian assumed leadership of the Electronic Media Special Interest Group (SIG). Johnson is vice chair-elect for the Publishing SIG. ❖

Donation benefits grad students in agricultural economics

NMSU graduate students in agricultural economics have new support, a professor's legacy will endure, and an association for farm managers and rural appraisers has a clearer vision for its future. That's the bottom line of a successful collaboration involving Agricultural Economics and Agricultural Business, the Wilmer Harper fund and the American Society of Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers.

When the group's leadership wanted help with strategic planning, they turned to NMSU's Jim Libbin, a member of the group's executive council from 1997 to 2000. Libbin connected them with colleague Joel Diemer, who has expertise with search conferences for strategic planning. "We conducted a search conference to help the Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers develop a vision for their future and a plan to get there," Diemer said.

Pleased with the results, the organization made a \$6,500 donation to the Wilmer Harper fund, which benefits graduate students in agricultural economics.

"The donation was Joel's idea," said Doug Slothower, executive vice president of the Denver-based society. "When we asked how we should pay, he suggested supporting a scholarship at NMSU."

The money will boost the

Wilmer Harper fund, which provides recognition for outstanding graduate students in agricultural economics. Throughout his career, Harper, who died in 2001, nurtured graduate students, including Rossana Alvarez-Diemer, who helped conduct the search conference and compile the results.

"I'm pleased that the department and college are acknowledging Wilmer's years here and his commitment to academic excellence," said Sally Harper, his widow. "I'm accepting this award on behalf of our three children."

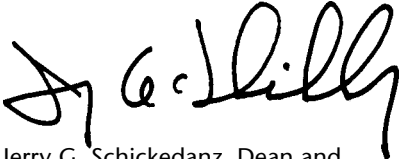
Harper taught classes, advised graduate students and served as a faculty senator. He was involved in agricultural development projects that took him to Bolivia, Egypt, Honduras, Paraguay, Sierra Leone, and Yemen. He and his family owned and operated Del Valle Pecans, a local company that produces and markets organic pecans.

The department has recognized two outstanding graduate students, Liz Holland and Luis Saenz, with a Harper award, which includes a plaque and small cash award.

The donation will allow the department to make longer-term plans for the award, Libbin said. "This is a tremendous opportunity for us and for our students."

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

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Jerry G. Schickedanz, Dean and Chief Administrative Officer



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