

*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. 17, No. 8, August 2003

## Two associate deans named

### Gutierrez to direct Extension

Paul Gutierrez, chair of the King County office of Washington State University Cooperative Extension, will take over as associate dean and associate director for NMSU Extension Dec. 1.

Raised near Grants, Gutierrez has directed an office since 1999 that serves Seattle and a population of 1.8 million, roughly the size of the New Mexico population. He spent 14 years as a Colorado State University Extension specialist in farm and ranch management. He earned bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees in agricultural economics from the University of Wyoming, NMSU and Oklahoma State University, respectively.

Gutierrez has led workshops in conflict resolution and served as a diversity resource leader in Colorado.

"I have stated that the philosophy of this college is that we are going to represent more to more people, but not become anything less to traditional constituents," said Dean Jerry Schickedanz. "I think Paul is ideal to lead us in that vein." ❖

### Holley heads academics this fall

Wesley Holley, former assistant dean and registrar at Oklahoma State University, takes over as associate dean and associate director of academic programs for the College of Agriculture and Home Economics on Sept. 1.

A professor of agricultural education, Holley served as registrar at OSU in 2001 and 2002 after serving as assistant dean for academic programs in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources since 1989.

He began his teaching career at OSU in 1980 after earning a doctorate there in agricultural education. In 1989, he was named co-author of the year for the *Journal of Agricultural Education*.

Holley coordinated environmental science, general agriculture and preveterinary academic programs at OSU in the 1990s. He worked as an agricultural education teacher in the 1970s. He is retiring from OSU.

"Wesley will be a great advocate for our students and for our college," Dean Jerry Schickedanz said. "By building our students' reputations, he will build our college's reputation." ❖

### The Dean's Perspective

As we open the new academic year, we are truly establishing a new era for the College of Agriculture and Home Economics. We are adding two new associate deans from outside our college's ranks. I think they have the potential to establish fresh directions for our programs that build on our successes.

Our new associate dean for academic programs is Wesley Holly. Wesley is starting a second career at NMSU after retiring from Oklahoma State

University. It would be difficult to find someone as well prepared and versed in the issues that face colleges like ours in the university community and that face our students in today's world. I'm enthused about some of the ways he intends to build our academic reputation.

Our new associate dean for Extension is Paul Gutierrez. Paul offers as complete a package as I could ever hope for in an Extension leader. He comes to us after running a county operation in Seattle, Wash., that serves roughly

the same population as our state. Paul has a reputation for bringing people together to deal with tough situations, and he has been successful in turning funding situations around. He has worked with agriculture as a specialist and has worked and/or earned degrees in five states.

Please welcome these gentlemen to our college.

## All-College Conference suspended

The All-College Conference, an annual fixture of the College of Agriculture and Home Economics since 1987, was suspended by Dean Jerry Schickedanz subject to a review. The dean suspended the conference, scheduled for early January, in response to recommendations by the Events Committee, which reviewed longstanding collegewide events.

"I am not canceling the All-College Conference," the dean said. "But I will ask a group of faculty to take a fresh look at the objectives of the conference and determine the best way or ways to fulfill those objectives."

The dean said the major objective of the conference was to develop mutual support among the faculty and staff across the teaching, research and Extension functions and among all units of the college across campus and across the state.

The dean said the work of the 2004 All-College Conference Committee was suspended. "We may still have an all-college event or events in the 2004 calendar year, depending on the recommendations of the new committee," he said. "But we definitely will not be having a conference in January."

The dean said he will soon select a committee that will include senior faculty. The Events Committee was composed of Lowell Catlett, John Mexal, Lisa McKee, Don Lindsey, Andy Giron, Elizabeth Crabb, Barbara Wise and Terry Canup. ❖

## Gleason wins URC award

Jeanne Gleason, assistant department head of Agricultural Communications, was presented the 2003 University Research Council Senior Faculty Award for Exceptional Achievement at the university convocation Aug. 14.

A 28-year veteran on the NMSU faculty, Gleason was cited for producing 700 educational videos and 100 multimedia projects, plus generating \$10 million through grants and contracts. She is a past

winner of the USDA Superior Service Award, a USDA Diversity Award, and Harmony Award from Agricultural Communicators in Education (ACE).

Gleason is the founder of the Agricultural Communications video and multimedia studios that have won more than 100 peer-reviewed awards. ACE conferred career achievement awards in both video and computer-based media for her instructional design expertise. ❖

## Dean endorses "On the Move"

Dean Jerry Schickedanz has endorsed a new program to get faculty and staff to increase their physical activity. "CAHE on the Move" adapts the "America on the Move" program that encourages people to count their steps each day.

One hundred pedometers were purchased for distribution to faculty and staff by Lucinda Banegas, a student working with Martha Archuleta, Extension specialist. Instructions for signing up will be e-mailed to faculty and staff. The first 100 registrants will receive a free pedometer.

"Our goal is to increase the average daily steps by 2,000 by the end of the first three months," Archuleta said. "The optimal goal is to take 10,000 steps per day." Registrants

will receive tips for increasing steps, conversion charts for different activities and tally sheets.

"My hope is that there will be competition for the farthest parking spaces from the buildings," Archuleta said.

Schickedanz said that worksite exercise programs are shown to reduce sick leave and health care costs, while increasing productivity.

The "America On the Move" literature states that 2,000 more steps each day is enough for most Americans to create a balance between energy expenditures and consumption. Tommy Thompson, U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services, recently adopted the program for his agency's staff. ❖

## Kirksey honored at Clovis field day

Agronomy and Horticulture honored interim superintendent Rex Kirksey Aug. 6 during the field day for the Agricultural Science Center at Clovis. Dean Jerry Schickedanz presented a plaque and gift certificate.

Kirksey was recognized for outstanding work and dedication in serving as superintendent for two science centers separated by almost 100 miles. He has been superintendent at Tucumcari and interim superintendent at Clovis this year. ❖

## New "Southwest Yard and Garden" episodes coming

Those tiring of repeat episodes of Extension's "Southwest Yard and Garden" television series will get relief as distribution of 13 new episodes begins to public broadcasting stations this month.

The program, featuring host Curtis Smith, Extension horticulturist, will begin fed weekly satellite feeds to stations beginning Aug. 24. New Mexico stations are expected to begin carrying new episodes in September.

The program has been aired in 16 Southwestern television markets,

including six of the nation's top 20 markets. Programs include a gardening 101 segment and visits to both private and public gardens in Southwestern locations, including Albuquerque and Roswell, N.M.; Sedona and Phoenix, Ariz.; Sacramento, Santa Barbara and Santa Rosa, Calif.; Fredericksburg, Dallas and San Antonio, Texas; and Colorado Springs, Denver, Durango, and Grand Junction, Colo.

New Mexico stations have carried the program on Saturday mornings. Check your local listings. ❖

## Viers new in Bernalillo County

Joran Viers will field questions on everything from urban lawn care to organic vegetable gardens and oversee the largest county Master Gardener program as new horticulture agent in Bernalillo County.

Prior to joining NMSU, Viers directed the New Mexico Organic Commodity Commission for six years.

Viers is an Albuquerque native who lived from age 6 to 11 in Costa Rica. He earned a bachelor's degree in biology with an emphasis in plant ecology from the University of New Mexico in 1992. As a student employee, he helped maintain the biology department's atrium and herbarium and performed native plant surveys at the Sevilleta Wildlife Refuge in Socorro County.

Viers earned a master's degree in botany from the University of Florida in 1994. He worked from 1994 to 1996 as manager of the university's Organic Gardening Research and Education Park.

He returned to New Mexico in 1996 and joined the Organic Commodity Commission. He became director in 1997, overseeing the commission's growth from a one-person agency with an \$80,000 budget to a four-person, \$240,000 operation.

"I did everything from coordinating field inspections to defending budget requests at the state Legislature," Viers said. "But day-to-day interaction with growers was always the most gratifying aspect of the job. That's a central reason I joined Extension." ❖

## Hanson joins faculty

Stephen Hanson, a molecular biologist familiar with new biotechnology methods, has joined Entomology, Plant Pathology and Weed Science as an assistant professor. He earned a doctorate in plant pathology and a bachelor's degree in bacteriology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

His research will target curly top virus and *Phytophthora* root rot, both scourges to the state's chile crop. Hanson said curly top is a prime candidate for a biotechnology solution.

"We're going to look at the molecular details of how the virus replicates and see if we can devise a control strategy based on that information," Hanson said. "We are going to look at using antagonistic bacteria to control *Phytophthora capsici*, one of the fungal pathogens that contribute to chile wilt."

Hanson will teach graduate and undergraduate courses on agricultural biotechnology. ❖

## Renz new weed specialist

Agricultural and invasive weeds are top priorities for Mark Renz, new weed specialist with Extension.

Renz comes to NMSU after serving as a postdoctoral researcher with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's exotic and invasive weeds research unit of the Agricultural Research Service in Reno, Nev.

He earned his doctorate at the University of California-Davis, where he researched control of the invasive species perennial pepperweed. Renz was a lecturer and head teaching assistant there. He also earned his bachelor's degree in botany with honors at Davis. ❖



## Deans' Coffee Time

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



# Events

## Aug. 20

### Los Lunas Field Day

Water conservation techniques for everything from parched pastures to an experimental vineyard will be featured Aug. 20 at NMSU's Agricultural Science Center at Los Lunas. One of the cutting-edge applications on display will be a solar-powered well that supplies water to an experimental vineyard through a subsurface drip irrigation system.

Researchers from across the state will discuss alfalfa varieties and alternative forages such as Max Q fescue. Field tours will highlight research on forage corn and sorghums, control of perennial pepperweed and a review of brush control in the Mountainair area. The water theme continues with a talk on statewide water conservation efforts, bosque restoration, new grass varieties and laser leveling.

Registration begins at 8 a.m. Tours and demonstrations are from 9 a.m. to noon, followed by a complimentary lunch. For more information, contact Mike English at 865-7340.

## Aug. 23

### Alcalde Field Day

Organic fruit and herb trials, water-efficient irrigation, cold-frame production and more will be on display Aug. 23 at a field day at NMSU's Sustainable Agriculture Science Center at Alcalde. Visitors can participate in one-hour tours from 9 a.m. to noon that will highlight medicinal herbs and hoop houses, forage and acequia systems, and fruit production. Other tour highlights include variety trials for sorghum-sudangrass and an acequia study to measure the effects of seepage.

Additional presentations will cover Extension efforts to improve agriculture on the pueblos and using bindweed mites. Registration begins at 8 a.m. After the tours, Dean Jerry Schickedanz will talk about the history of the Alcalde research center, followed by a free lunch. For more information, contact Steve Guldan at 852-4241.

## Aug. 26

### Peanut Field Day

Agricultural scientists from New Mexico, Texas and Georgia will put peanuts under the microscope at a special field day Tuesday, Aug. 26, at Clovis and Portales research plots.

Naveen Puppala, NMSU peanut breeder, said the event will showcase cost-saving production methods, including the use of liquid inoculants that help fix nitrogen in plant roots, reducing fertilizer costs. NMSU researchers have several promising lines of Valencia-type peanuts under development which yield 10 to 12 percent more than existing varieties.

Registration and field tours begin at 8:30 a.m. at NMSU's South Research Facility, five miles south of Clovis. At 10:30 a.m., the program moves to research plots at Eastern New Mexico University on the South Floyd Highway, adjacent to La Casa de Buena Salud Health Care Center. For more information, contact Puppala at 985-2292.

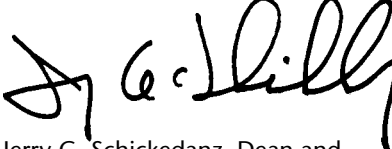
## Need to meet with the dean?

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

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

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

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