

*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. 10, October 2003

The Dean's Perspective

I was overwhelmed by the responses to the faculty/staff survey on the *Leading Object* newsletter. The 138 responses were more than 90 percent in favor of keeping the newsletter and keeping the name. Most respondents found it useful.

The respondents want a newsletter that is brief and to the point but keeps them feeling involved. The survey results beg for some changes, without compromising brevity. First, we will develop an easy, fast way for anyone in the college to make submissions to the newsletter online. We hope to get information about new classified staff, recognitions, promotions, student news and interesting briefs.

Secondly, we will rotate brief 200-word updates from departments and units in the newsletter: two per month in addition to a column that rotates among our associate deans, beginning this month. We will cross-reference printed material with more detailed Web site information so the newsletter stays brief.

We'll try to include more forward-looking institutional news, have a fresh look and begin using photos to give the newsletter a personal touch, attaching names to faces as often as we can. The transition should be fully in effect by the beginning of 2004. Thanks for your responses.

New homecoming event planned

"A Legacy of Heroes" is the theme for NMSU homecoming Oct. 30–Nov. 1.

In a new, combined event, the College of Agriculture and Home Economics will host a breakfast Friday, Oct. 31 at 7:30 a.m. to honor alumni, scholarship donors and recipients, and winners of the college's decorating contests. The breakfast will take place in a tent near the windmill in front of Gerald Thomas Hall.

The college will recognize its 2003 distinguished alumnus Topper Thorpe, executive vice president of Cattle Fax; and NMSU's distinguished international alumnus, Victor Guerrero-Prieto, unit coordinator and researcher with Centro de Investigacion en Alimentacion in Cuauhtemoc, Mexico.

Thorpe, an authority on livestock market trends and economics, has frequently appeared on the front page of the *Wall Street Journal* and served on the Council of Economic Advisers for multiple U.S. presidents. After earning bachelor's and master's degrees in agricultural economics from NMSU in 1964 and 1969, respectively, Thorpe was hired as Cattle Fax's first marketing analyst. In more than three decades of leadership, he has shaped the organization into a leader in market data and analysis. He was recognized as one of NMSU's outstanding centennial alumni in 1988.

Guerrero-Prieto, who earned a doctorate in agronomy from NMSU in 1995, leads research on food

and nutrition's role in economic growth and social welfare in the state of Chihuahua. In his six years with the agency, he has studied biological control of fungal pathogens in harvested fruits. Guerrero-Prieto has assisted his alma mater with recruiting tours to Chihuahua and collaborated with International Programs on international proposals and technical reports. He spent 10 years as a researcher with Mexico's national forestry, agriculture and fishery research institute. He has seven years' experience with Mexico's Extension Service and eight years' experience as a faculty member with the University of Chihuahua.

During the week, faculty, staff and students can take part in traditional door decorating and pumpkin carving contests, which will be judged Thursday, Oct. 30 at 2 p.m.

Door decorations are limited to 5 feet on either side of the doorway, and hallways must be free from obstructions. Winners have their names engraved on a traveling trophy and honorable mention entries receive a fruit basket.

Prizes will be awarded for funniest, scariest, most original and overall winning pumpkin, with pumpkins available Monday, Oct. 27 outside the Gerald Thomas Hall auditorium. Pumpkins should be placed to the right of the door for judging.

The homecoming parade will be on Saturday, Nov. 1, followed by tailgating and the Aggie football game against Arkansas State at 6 p.m. ♦

NMSU women win season's first rodeo

NMSU's women's rodeo team won its season opener at Cochise College, as senior Mandy Sproul captured the all-around title and two new recruits helped sweep the top three in breakaway roping.

"I have high hopes for the women's team this year with the returning and new talent we have," said coach Jim Dewey Brown.

The NMSU women racked up 430 points to Central Arizona College's second-place total of 50 points. The men's team finished third.

Breakaway roping was NMSU's strongest event. In her first competition for NMSU, junior Keli Smith, a transfer from New Mexico Junior College in Hobbs, won the average with a time of 5.9 seconds on two runs. Smith was the 2002 collegiate breakaway roping champion.

Sproul was second with a total

time of 6.1 seconds. Janelle Manygoats of Winslow, Ariz., a two-time qualifier for the College National Finals Rodeo (CNFR), was third with a total time of 6.5 seconds.

Sproul, who competed in four events in June's CNFR, added another all-around victory, placing second in goat tying average with a time of 20.8 seconds on two runs and fourth overall in barrel racing with a total time of 35.62 seconds.

Smith was second in barrel racing with a total time of 35.46 seconds. Sophomore Audrey Baeza finished sixth with a time of 35.8 seconds.

For the men, junior Buddy Robinson was fifth in calf roping with a time of 28.4 seconds on two runs. Sophomore Brett Acuna, who won the long go in calf roping

with a time of 11.3 seconds, finished seventh overall.

In team roping, NMSU heeler Jared Davis took first and second overall, partnering with two headers. Davis and Tim Baker of Central Arizona College posted a winning total time of 12.9 seconds. Davis and Dan Whitworth of Central Arizona had the second-best total of 14.6 seconds. NMSU freshmen Bode Baize and Brandin Engle finished in fourth with a total time of 20.5 seconds.

In steer wrestling, Cooper Wimberly was fourth with a total time of 20.4 seconds. Robinson was second in the long go with a time of 8.4 seconds.

Saddle bronc rider Taylor Smith won the long go with a score of 76. Bull rider Justin Sanderlin was fourth in the long go with a 67.

Chervenock extends 4-H in Otero County

Kristian Chervenock will reach out to involve more youth as a 4-H agent in Otero County.

"I'll work to bring 4-H programs to youngsters who haven't yet had that opportunity," said Chervenock, who was hired under a U.S. Justice Department grant that helps expand 4-H programs in counties with underserved populations.

Chervenock will introduce 4-H programs on the Mescalero Apache reservation and at Holloman Air Force Base. He will also work with at-risk youth at the Academy del Sol alternative high school and at Alamogordo's juvenile drug court. He will offer leadership and character development classes, while drawing youth into community projects, such as a new community garden in Alamogordo.

"A local resident donated a 100-by 150-foot lot downtown, and I've already got 20 youngsters from the

juvenile court signed up to participate," Chervenock said. "It will be a cross between a demonstration garden that highlights xeriscaping and a community plot for participants and neighborhood residents to grow vegetables and flowers."

Chervenock, 27, was born in Vancouver, British Columbia, but grew up in Bellingham, Wash. His stepfather is a 4-H youth development agent in Whatcom County, Wash., where his family has a hobby farm with pygmy goats, horses, cows and ducks.

Chervenock participated in 4-H during most of his youth. He started the Pygmy Paradise 4-H Club. At 12, he was the top West Coast showman in his age group for pygmy goats.

He earned a bachelor's degree in international relations from the University of Washington in 1998, a degree in teaching English as a second language in 2000 from

Western Washington University and a master's degree in adult education in 2002, also from Western.

In 1999, he worked for a year in Australia. In 2001, he taught English to youth and adults in Maebashi, Japan, about 100 miles north of Tokyo. In 2002, he worked as a home care provider for two men with Down's syndrome in Bellingham, and most recently taught English as a second language to adults in Vancouver.

Chervenock expects his international experience will enrich his work with youth in Otero County. "My experiences overseas and with different cultures has given me a broad understanding about how the world works and what makes people who they are," he said. "It's also taught me to be a good listener and a problem solver, and that's important when working with youth." ❖

Walden new in Quay County office

Pete Walden brings a lifetime of ranching experience to Quay County, where he will supervise livestock and crop programs as an Extension agricultural agent.

"I'm excited to be in a rural New Mexico county where beef cattle production is one of the main income earners for residents," said Walden, who joined Extension in August. "I've been in this business my entire life. I think I can provide a lot of support to local stock farmers and ranchers, and I really enjoy working with them."

In addition to livestock programs, Walden will provide horticulture assistance to gardeners and work on local economic development programs, such as promoting tourism in Quay County through NMSU's Rural Economic Development Through Tourism project.

Walden comes from a ranching family. His parents ranched in Moriarty, but in the late 1950s, drought forced them to sell and move to Mineral Wells, near Fort Worth, Texas, where his father was hired to manage a 600-head cattle operation.

"I was in the saddle helping my dad by the time I was 8," Walden said. "At 12, my dad sent me to artificial insemination school, and I worked with him on the ranch until I graduated from college."

Walden was active in 4-H throughout his youth. He earned a bachelor's degree in animal science in 1977 from Tarleton State University in Stephenville, Texas,

and a master's degree in animal science in 1997 from Sul Ross State University in Alpine, Texas.

After graduating from Tarleton, he managed a 200-head cattle operation in Weatherford, Texas, for nine years. In 1986, he began his own cattle operation, which he maintained until 2002, at one point managing three separate ranches with more than 900 head.

In addition to running his own business, from 1986 to 1988, he managed a cattle embryo facility west of Fort Worth. From 1989 to 1998, he worked with Texas Cooperative Extension as an agricultural and 4-H agent in Limestone, Guadalupe and Culberson counties, supervising field crop, livestock and natural resource management programs. In Culberson County, he started the Big Buck Tournament to increase profits for mule deer hunters.

"We measured, weighed and recorded the age of mule deer to encourage hunters to focus on quality deer," Walden said. "That increased gross income for hunters in the county by more than \$600,000 per year, because their sales went from about \$600 per hunt to about \$3,000 per hunt."

He taught high school science and vocational agriculture from 1999 to 2001 in Dell City, Texas, and most recently worked as a juvenile and adult probation officer in Culberson and Hudspeth counties.

This year, he sold all his cattle to return to Extension.♣

Agriculture and Home Economics Week Results

Collegiate FFA was the sweepstakes winner during Agriculture and Home Economics Week, Sept. 22-27. FarmHouse and Sigma Alpha were second and third, respectively.

A canned food drive during the week yielded 1,307 pounds for the Community of Hope soup kitchen.

Prepared Speech Contest

1. Erin Frye, Sigma Alpha
2. Megan Nichols, Pre-Vet Club
3. Candy Ledbetter, Hotel, Restaurant and Tourism Management Association

Extemporaneous Speech Contest

1. Kendra Miller, Sigma Alpha
2. Megan Nichols, Pre-Vet Club
3. Jay Hill, National Agri-Marketing Association (NAMA)

Debate Night

1. FarmHouse
2. Block and Bridle Club
3. Collegiate FFA

Quiz Bowl

1. Collegiate FFA
2. NAMA
3. Block and Bridle

Talent Night

1. Pre-Vet Club
2. Alpha Gamma Rho
3. Collegiate FFA

Comedy Night

1. FarmHouse
2. Collegiate FFA
3. NAMA

Canned Food Drive

1. Collegiate FFA with 624 lbs.
2. Block and Bridle with 372 lbs.
3. FarmHouse with 201 lbs.

Queen Contest

1. Rae Lynn Dunlap, Collegiate FFA
2. Erin Frye, Sigma Alpha
3. Amanda Bridge, Block and Bridle

King Contest

1. Quentin Ray, Sigma Alpha
2. Chase Taylor, Collegiate FFA
3. Derek Romig, FarmHouse

Aggie Games

1. FarmHouse
2. Faculty
3. Alpha Gamma Rho



From the Associate Dean

Our Response to Agricultural Security

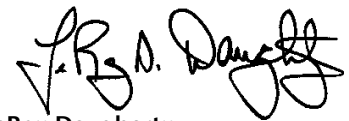
Over the past two years, the state Agricultural Experiment Stations nationwide have been assessing the system's ability to help protect agricultural production and food systems. The land-grant universities have appropriate skills to help prevent, mitigate or eliminate threats.

The NMSU's Experiment Station has responded by joining several ventures to protect the nation's security. We joined the National Institute for Agricultural Security, a 501(c)3 research organization made up of member Agricultural Experiment Stations. Other groups the our Experiment Station helped form or joined are the Rocky Mountain Institute for Biosecurity

Research (Rocky Mountain Area AES); Agricultural and Food Security Consortium (NMSU, Kansas State and Sandia National Lab); and the Bioresearch Consortium (NMSU, University of New Mexico, New Mexico Department of Health, Sandia National Lab). We are forming memoranda of agreement with New Mexico Tech for a homeland security effort at Playas and with New Mexico Tech and the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs on security issues.

These partnerships will help NMSU and the Experiment Station analyze implications of recent legislation and federal requirements, including the Patriot Act, biosecurity components of the

2002 Farm Bill, and university-wide implications of the Bioterrorism Preparedness Act's regulatory requirements. We'll be better prepared to respond to funding opportunities with a host of appropriate federal agencies, including the departments of Human Services, Defense, Energy, and Agriculture, plus agencies like the Food and Drug Administration, Environmental Protection Agency and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.



LeRoy Daugherty
Associate Dean and Associate Director
Agricultural Experiment Station

Enrollment plan underway

To paraphrase Uncle Sam's famous recruiting slogan: Academic Programs wants your help in planning how to bring more students to the College of Agriculture and Home Economics.

This fall, departments will be asked for their ideas, input and special needs in recruiting students, said Wesley Holley, associate dean for Academic Programs. The information will be used for a comprehensive recruiting plan to be in place by February.

"As our college-level recruiting coordinator, Kristy Langley will lead our efforts to develop a well-coordinated strategic plan," he said. "We want to involve as many of the faculty and staff as possible because that's essential to having a good recruiting plan."

Holley said the college's overall goal is 3 percent growth annually in undergraduate enrollment. "Our primary goal is to cover New Mexico and bring in-state students to NMSU," he said. "We will also

target bordering states—portions of Texas, Colorado, Arizona and perhaps California."

Langley is researching past enrollment patterns and recruiting strategies.

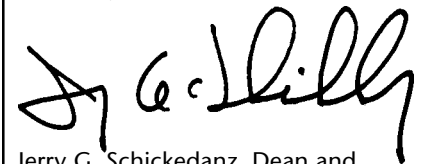
"I'll be visiting each department to ask for their ideas about what they would like to have included in the plan," Langley said. "It's important for us to know where our students have come from so that we can recruit more students from those places and reach other areas with strong potential."

Langley, new recruiter Jerry Hawkins and scholarship coordinator Edward Rodriguez, who devotes a portion of his time to recruiting, will serve on a recruiting committee. However, attracting and retaining students requires help from faculty, administrators and staff, Holley said.

"We want to make sure students come to NMSU, stay to complete their degrees and go on to be successful in their careers." ❖

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

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