

*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

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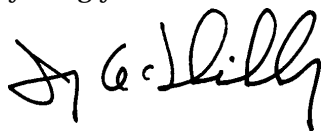
The Dean's Perspective

University news releases indicate that preliminary interviews for the NMSU presidency began March 8 and that public interviews of finalists may be only two or three weeks away. It is a time of great anticipation. It is hard to fathom what each faculty member hopes we gain from a new president. It is safe to say that faculty thoughts range from hoping for someone who can carefully build on past accomplishments to hoping for someone who will be revolutionary.

This is a critical time for NMSU and the College of Agriculture and Home Economics. It is very important that the next president recognizes the vital missions of Extension and the Experiment Station and views them as important partners in NMSU's future. Our worst nightmare would be to have a new leader who does not value or appreciate these missions, which account for almost nine of 10 of our appropriated dollars.

Unfortunately, there are biases and jealousies against agriculture and home economics programs that have recurred historically at NMSU. They are well-documented in the university's history, *That All May Learn*. Fortunately, we also have had leaders who recognized that these programs are very much a part of what makes us a unique and integral institution in New Mexico.

It is time to get involved as faculty members. When names of finalists are announced, take notice. Attend their seminars and forums. Ask pertinent questions and learn everything you can about them.



Extension garden TV debuts in April

A weekly television show called "Southwest Yard and Garden" will debut on all New Mexico public television stations April 8.

The program, which is a production partnership between KRWG-TV in Las Cruces, KNME-TV in Albuquerque and Agricultural Communications, will feature Extension faculty Curtis Smith and John White as hosts.

Mike Ferrales, Agricultural Communications video specialist, will produce the program and is already conducting field production. Ferrales said the programs will be a part of Saturday daytime schedules of the two production partners and KENW-TV in Portales. The programs likely will be rebroadcast during the following week's schedule.

Each week, the program will address issues both in Las Cruces and Albuquerque. Master gardeners will ask gardening questions they field from the public. The program will feature demonstrations, questions and answers, and interesting people including experts in gardening.

Plans are to produce the program through the 2000 gardening season,

though there is a possibility that it would continue year-round, said Terry Canup, head of Agricultural Communications.

Canup said KNME expressed interest in broadcasting the program in other states, and Extension counterparts in Arizona were contacted about developing segments from the Sonoran region in Tucson or Phoenix in the future.

Canup said the program needs underwriting and anyone knowing possible underwriters should contact him or Ron Salak, KRWG-TV station manager.

The program marks the second weekly series Agricultural Communications has been involved in this year. "NMSU Extra," a weekly magazine of NMSU athletics, is edited and shot in part by Ken Downer of Agricultural Communications. The program is in its 10th week of production and is shown on Albuquerque's WB network affiliate and on TCI cable channel 5 in Las Cruces.

"NMSU Extra" includes advertising for Extension and college academic programs.

New members join college's strategic planning committee

The College of Agriculture and Home Economics' Strategic Planning Committee, commonly known as the Committee of Seven, has new members and a new chairman. Elected last month to represent Experiment Station and academic faculty is Rhonda Skaggs, associate professor in Agricultural Economics and Agricultural Business. She will serve until February 2002.

Elected last month to represent Extension faculty is Charlie Siepel,

Hidalgo County program director. He will serve until February 2004.

On March 3, Siepel was selected to chair the committee by Jerry Schickedanz, interim dean. He also appointed Shelly Porter, Colfax County home economist, to a two-year term and Esther Devall, associate professor in Family and Consumer Sciences, to a four-year term.

The group is responsible for reviewing and updating the college strategic plan.

College gains Senate slot, new members chosen

Reapportionment of Faculty Senate seats according to faculty and student numbers has netted the College of Agriculture and Home Economics one more seat. The Faculty Senate ballot, which originally was circulated with two nominees for one seat, now has two seats to fill.

Nominees are Gregory Blanch, assistant professor in Hotel, Restaurant and Tourism Management, and Dawn Vanleeuwen, associate professor in Agricultural and Extension Education. Wanda Morgan, associate professor in Family and Consumer Sciences, already is slated to fill in for college senator Merrillyn Cummings during her six-month sabbatical.

A new ballot will be sent to faculty to elect a replacement for Reldon Beck until May 2001, as he assumes the position of Faculty Senate chairman.

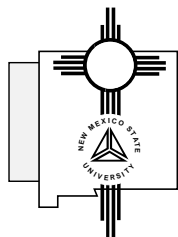
The Leading Object is dedicated to encouraging communication among all areas of NMSU's College of Agriculture and Home Economics.

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Road to Santa Fe

The state's budget bill was vetoed in its entirety by Gov. Gary Johnson on March 8. Consequently, there is no budget for compensation, expansion initiatives or capital outlay projects for the College of Agriculture and Home Economics.

Rumors at press time point to a March 27 special session of the state Legislature to address development of a new budget bill. The vetoed bill had no expansion funds for the college, but included 3-percent raises for faculty and staff and \$50,000 for a viticulturalist. Capital outlay of \$500,000 for the NMSU Equestrian Complex was left on the Senate floor due to a filibuster the closing morning.

Ag minor for engineers explored

An agriculture curriculum for engineers will be proposed by Don Lindsey, interim associate dean of the College of Agriculture and Home Economics' Academic Programs. Lindsey was asked by the college's interim dean, Jerry Schickedanz, to develop a core curriculum for a minor in agriculture aimed at students majoring in mechanical, chemical and electrical engineering.

NMSU Police take over Ag Institute space

The NMSU Police Department was authorized on Feb. 15 to take over portions of the Agriculture Institute Complex by Executive Vice President John Owens. Vocational agriculture laboratory space for Agriculture and Extension Education will be maintained in the complex on Union and College streets.

Owens said the department could immediately occupy a portion of the large bay area and construct an

The bill also included a provision that would allow the state to take credit for a percentage of tuition waivers offered by universities. The greatest effect at NMSU would be from waivers for in-state tuition for El Paso residents. NMSU would have to find a means of making up hundreds of thousands of dollars lost through the credit.

Separate legislation signed by Johnson made an adjustment in the Lottery Scholarship program, shifting another 10 percent of lottery proceeds into college scholarships. This will allow the program to cover all tuition costs for qualified students for the coming year.

Schickedanz met with Jay Jordan, dean of the College of Engineering, after receiving a letter from agricultural engineers requesting that NMSU develop an agricultural engineering major.

"It is our feeling that students in both colleges could best be served by developing a minor in agriculture for engineering students," Schickedanz said.

impound area between the bay and office wings to deal with desperate needs for new space. The police will eventually occupy bay areas now holding surplus property and the wind tunnel. The office wing is slated to become the NMSU Visitors Center when renovation funds become available.

The NMSU Police Station is immediately east of the Agriculture Institute building.



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