

*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

Vol. 15, No. 4, April 2001


The Dean's Perspective

The 100th anniversary of the Family and Consumer Sciences program is a significant event in our institution's history. I was very glad that Jay and Susan Gogue—the latter a home economist—were with us to celebrate on April 5.

It has been the habit of some to treat the home economics/family and consumer science departments in our land-grant system as some sort of addenda to the main missions of the land grant universities. A look at history belies that idea. Improving the quality of life was central to the mission of the Smith-Lever Act, which created the Cooperative Extension Service on a national scale.

For years before that, there was a major movement in the industrialized world to use knowledge to intervene in the domestic lives of citizens. The years leading to the turn of the century were the beginning of the progressive era, where people realized that we needed to address the state of our citizens with scientific knowledge. Infant mortality and maternal morbidity were at frightening levels when the movement began. Public education made a huge impact, improving life dramatically.

Today, our challenges are different, yet still so many of the answers to our social concerns are centered at the consumer and family levels. There is still much to achieve in the second hundred years. Congratulations on a fruitful first century!



Extension opens first learning centers

Online teaching, a virtual news conference and a computerized ribbon cutting will be part of opening ceremonies for the first Extension learning center April 17 in Clayton, a northeastern New Mexico town 414 miles from the main campus.

NMSU, the first Extension Service in the nation to use HorizonLive software, will use the distance education technology throughout the dedication to allow supporters and media statewide to log on for the events, said Bobby Dictson, community partnerships coordinator. HorizonLive allows live voice transmission on the Internet with simultaneous online chat and visual aids.

Dedication plans call for Clayton participants to take a brief online course originating from Las Cruces, witness an online news conference and retrieve

archived classes on the World Wide Web, all using HorizonLive. The event will begin at 12:15 p.m. at the Union County Extension office. Lunch will be served beforehand.

NMSU President Jay Gogue will participate online from Las Cruces.

In addition, Extension offices in DeBaca, Guadalupe and Harding counties will hold local receptions to open their learning centers in Fort Sumner, Santa Rosa and Mosquero, respectively.

Two major supporters will be honored for their contributions. Eastern New Mexico Rural•Plateau Communications, based in Clovis, has provided high-speed lines for four Extension offices in its service area. New Mexico Technet will equip 46 NMSU learning centers statewide with fully networked computer labs at an estimated cost of \$50,000. ❖

Personnel, payroll moved; building management reassigned

Personnel and payroll functions for the College of Agriculture and Home Economics are being moved to the Office of Business and Resource Planning under coordinator Mary Vee Cammack, Dean Jerry Schickedanz announced April 9.

The move will help improve and streamline procedures to coincide with modifications in the central administrative automated system, Schickedanz said.

Cammack will continue to coordinate personnel and payroll. She also

will develop recommendations to improve internal procedures, provide specialized training for departments, and streamline the college's working relationship with central personnel and payroll offices.

Building management responsibilities will be transferred to Dinus Briggs, administrative specialist with the Experiment Station. He will coordinate building repair, maintenance, safety and security, in addition to his current responsibilities. ❖

Byford named Extension plant sciences head

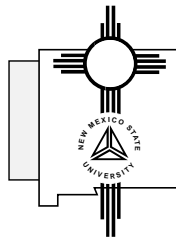
Ron Byford was named Extension Plant Sciences department head April 2.

Byford will oversee 18 faculty and staff in six locations. He had served as interim department head since 1997.

Byford is also a professor in Entomology, Plant Pathology and Weed Science. His teaching and research has been in medical and veterinary entomology.

Byford came to NMSU in 1988 from Louisiana State University, where he was an assistant and associate professor of veterinary entomology. He has received the Faculty Senator award and the Dean's Award for Superior Achievement.

Byford earned his bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees from Oklahoma State University in 1978, 1980 and 1984, respectively.



Road to Santa Fe

Senate Bill 68, giving compensation increases of 7 percent for faculty and 6.5 percent for staff was signed by the governor this month, the biggest increase in 12 years for NMSU employees. The compensation increase includes funds for promotions, merit and cost-of-living raises. Faculty promotion increases are taken out before other increases are given to faculty.

Senate Bill 59 was signed into law, placing 100 percent of lottery revenues in the Success College Scholarship Fund. Lottery scholarship funds were dwindling and would have been severely restricted without more dollars devoted to the fund.

House Joint Resolution 24 died. The resolution, introduced by Rep. Andrew Nuñez of Doña Ana

County, would have placed on the ballot a constitutional amendment to make all four-year university boards of regents seven members strong and elect four of those members in general elections.

Vetoed by the governor were bills that would have increased the multiplier in the Educational Retirement formula for those retiring after July 1, 2004, and allowing veterans to purchase up to five years of military service credit at any time. Now, such time must be purchased within the first three years of employment at the university.

No funding for the college's programmatic initiatives in chile sustainability, water resources, or hotel, restaurant and tourism management survived. ❖

Awards Day set for April 19

State secretary of agriculture Frank DuBois and supporters Phil and Yetta Bidegain will garner two of the top awards of the College of Agriculture and Home Economics on Awards Day at 10 a.m. Thursday, April 19 in Gerald Thomas Hall auditorium.

DuBois will receive the Philip J. Leyendecker Agriculturist of Distinction Award. The Bidegains will receive the Outstanding Leadership Award.

The ceremony will honor faculty and staff for outstanding research, teaching, service and Extension work. Top students will receive dean's awards of excellence and the outstanding home economics and agriculture student awards.

Top recipients will receive specially designed medallions, a new addition to this year's ceremony. ❖

Blue Cross presentation on HorizonLive

A presentation about NMSU's new insurance provider, Blue Cross, will be offered Tuesday, April 24 at 2 p.m. in Gerald Thomas Hall auditorium for campus faculty and via HorizonLive for those outside Las Cruces.

Speakers will include Janet May, NMSU's assistant personnel director, and Blue Cross representatives.

"This will allow us to get our 250

or so off-campus faculty and staff into the loop early on and get questions answered about the new insurance plan," said Billy Dictson, associate dean and Extension director.

Campus faculty should attend the live seminar. Because the number of log-ons is limited, only one computer per off-campus location will be allowed to access the presentation. ❖

Deans'
Coffee
Time

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

Technology review team to visit

Faculty and staff can give their input to a two-person review team helping NMSU's College of Agriculture and Home Economics assess its current and future use of telecommunications technology.

Kevin Gamble of North Carolina State University and Ron Roeber of the University of Nebraska will attend a reception in the Livestock Pavilion after the 10 a.m. Awards Day ceremony on Thursday, April 19. In addition, an open forum for faculty and staff will be held on April 19 at 3 p.m. in Room 297 of Gerald Thomas Hall.

Gamble and Roeber's task is to help ensure that the college is using telecommunications technology effectively in Extension, Experiment Station and Academic Programs. They will gather input and offer advice about emerging applied telecommunications technologies the college should take advantage of in the next three to five years.

Gamble is chief technology officer and project director with the American Distance Education Consortium (ADEC). He is the former information technology director for North Carolina State University's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and holds a part-time appointment at NCSU, which hosts the ADEC Web server.

Gamble is best known for his efforts in leading the Extension system onto the Internet. In 1991, he was part of a team that developed the Almanac Information Server as a means for sharing land-

grant university information worldwide. He implemented the Extension system's first World Wide Web server in 1993 and was a pioneer in using the Internet for online teaching. He recently helped found the Land Grant Open Source Alliance, a consortium of universities dedicated to sharing open-source software and course content. He holds a doctorate in agricultural and extension education from Iowa State University.

Roeber, an Extension computer specialist, is the newly appointed coordinator of statewide information technology services for the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He most recently coordinated the Distributed Environments for Active Learning (DEAL) laboratory, which provides technological support for teaching in the classroom, via distance education and in Extension outreach. DEAL software developers and multimedia designers work hand in hand with faculty. The lab has been involved in more than \$1 million of grants and contract work in the last three years.

Roeber is a member of the technology leadership team for the national Children, Youth and Family Network (CYFERNet). His previous experience includes serving as a county Extension director, district and state Extension technology specialist, and coordinator of the "Electronically Serving Nebraskans" network infrastructure project. He earned a doctorate in agricultural economics in 2000. ❖

Lindsey and Daugherty now permanent

"Interim" has been removed from the titles of Don Lindsey, associate dean and Academic Programs director, and LeRoy Daugherty, associate director of the Experiment Station. The permanent appointments were effective April 1, Dean Jerry Schickedanz said.

Lindsey had served in an interim capacity since July 1997. The 32-year veteran of the College of Agriculture and Home Economics had previously served as a professor in Entomology, Plant Pathology and Weed Science. He studied virtually all of New Mexico's soil-inhabiting disease organisms and conducted research in Egypt and Central America. He was a sought-after student adviser and recipient of the Distinguished Teaching Award in 1990.

Daugherty's interim appointment began in August 1997. He headed Agronomy and Horticulture from 1986 to 1997. He joined the college in 1975 as an assistant professor in the Crop and Soil Science department. He has served as chair of the Soil Science Society of America's pedology subdivision and on its board of directors.

Marshall receives NMSU's Crouch Award

Irma Marshall, records technician for Agricultural Economics and Agricultural Business, will be honored as NMSU's Ralph B. Crouch Award winner during ceremonies April 25 at 4 p.m. in the Corbett Center Doña Ana Room.

The award, which carries a \$2,000 cash prize, is given for

outstanding contributions within the university.

Marshall has worked for NMSU for 15 years. She wins rave reviews from faculty and students for her handling of student registrations, advising schedules and undergraduate and graduate records. She was nominated by John Waelti,

head of Agricultural Economics and Agricultural Business.

In 1994, Marshall received both a Fort Bliss Federal Credit Union staff award and the Distinguished Classified Staff Award from the College of Agriculture and Home Economics. ❖

Vehstedt to retire

Nancy Vehstedt will retire April 30 as assistant director of the Office of Business and Resource Planning with NMSU's College of Agriculture and Home Economics.

Vehstedt began work at NMSU in 1978 at the College of Arts and Sciences Research Center. After a short stint at the central payroll office, she began managing the Extension budget in 1981. She was promoted to assistant director in 1994.

"Nancy always conducts herself with dignity and integrity and interacts with all levels of staff with confidence," said Tim Nesbitt, director of the Office of Business Resource Planning. "Nancy's pleasant attitude has been appreciated by so many over the years."

A retirement reception for Vehstedt will be held in the Social Living Center of Gerald Thomas Hall on April 19 from 3 to 4 p.m.

Beth Chorey, Experiment Station budget specialist, will assume the responsibilities of assistant director May 1.

Walser hired as fruit specialist in Alcalde

Fruit production in northern New Mexico will receive a much-needed boost from Ron Walser, who began work March 13 as NMSU's first Extension fruit specialist based in Alcalde.

Walser has more than 30 years of experience. He received a bachelor's degree in horticulture in 1968 from Brigham Young University and a doctorate in crop physiology in 1976 from Utah State. From 1976 to 1980, he worked with Extension at three universities: Kentucky, Texas Tech and Utah. He taught at Brigham Young from 1980 to 1993.

Since 1993, he has worked mostly in the private sector, including five

years as a horticulture field agent in Chihuahua, Mexico. He was associate Extension agent in Graham County, Ariz., from January 1998 to June 1999. Since then, he has worked as field representative and field manager for Washington-based Windflow Fertilizer Inc. and for Radar Farms Inc., respectively.

Walser will conduct fruit research at the Sustainable Agricultural Science Center at Alcalde and work with northern New Mexico producers to improve and diversify fruit production. He plans to test local adaptability of cold-hardy, late blooming stone fruit cultivars, such as peaches, cherries, apricots and plums. He will also introduce small fruits, such as raspberries, blackberries, strawberries and cold-hardy kiwifruit.

His central goal, however, is to help small northern New Mexico fruit growers make their farms more lucrative.

Rodeo team has success at NIRA competitions

NMSU bareback rider Bryce Duggar placed first, and NMSU rodeo team calf ropers had top placings during National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association (NIRA) regional competition on March 17 at the Southern New Mexico Fairgrounds in Las Cruces.

Calf roper Toby Boland placed third in the long go, third in the short go and second in the average with a total time of 21.8 seconds. Other winners at the March 17 competition were Jarret Corn with second in the short go and third in the average with a time of 22.9 seconds. John Pete Etcheverry and Aaron Thomas won the long go in team roping. Annette Hinkle placed second in the long go breakaway roping, and Koell Wright took third in the long go and third in the average in breakaway roping with a total time of 9.1 seconds.

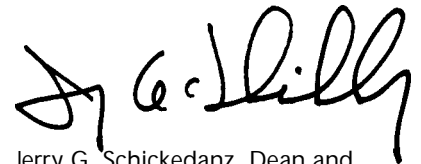
Duggar also placed first in the bareback riding event at the March 24

NIRA competition in Farmington. Duggar's two wins puts him in first place in the regional standings. At the March 24 rodeo, Corn placed third in the average with a total time of 26.6 seconds. Joe Kyle Reid placed second in the first go-round with 11.1 seconds. Wright placed second in the first go-round in breakaway calf roping with a time of 3.7 seconds.

In regional standings, the NMSU men's team is currently in third place and the women's team is in fourth. NMSU's next NIRA competition is April 13-14 at the University of New Mexico. ❖

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

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