

*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. 6, June 2003

Gonzalez appointed NMDA director

I. Miley Gonzalez, president of Gonzalez and Associates of Phoenix, will begin work July 1 as secretary/director of the New Mexico Department of Agriculture.

NMSU's Board of Regents unanimously selected Gonzalez during their May 30 meeting.

"I'm looking forward to working with all members of the agricultural community and other groups related to that industry," Gonzalez said.

Gonzalez served as NMSU's interim vice provost for research and associate dean and director of the Experiment Station 2001 to 2002, as well as serving in other college posts. He was the undersecretary for research, education and economics for the U. S. Department of Agriculture in Washington, D.C., from 1997 to 2001.

"Miley is nationally respected for his knowledge in agriculture," Gov. Bill Richardson said. "Most importantly, he understands the essential role agriculture plays in New Mexico's economy. I'm confident Miley's background in water issues and international trade will allow agriculture to flourish in our state."

The director is hired by the Board of Regents, reports to the board and also serves as a member of the governor's cabinet.

"This was an excellent search process. We had very qualified candidates and it was a tough decision," said Laura Conniff, Board of Regents president. "We felt that Dr. Gonzalez is extremely qualified."

"Dr. Gonzalez is an excellent selection and will serve our state well," NMSU president Jay Gogue said.

When he was born, Gonzalez's family farmed near La Union, N.M., a few miles south of NMSU. Later, the family moved to San Simon, Ariz., along the border of southeastern Arizona and southwestern New Mexico, where they sold cattle across the border. He later managed spice farms in Mexico and marketed their products in the United States.

Gonzalez has worked his way across the country at four different land-grant universities: Arizona, Pennsylvania State, Iowa State and NMSU. In addition, he has directed

international programs, honing his bilingual skills in educational projects in more than 15 countries.

"We know agriculture is important to the economy of New Mexico," Gonzalez said. "People need to know where food comes from. New Mexico has a lot of dedicated growers and processors that will help us tell their story."

Gonzalez has been a member of the National Board of Directors of the University of Arizona Alumni Association, the Rural Telephone Bank Board (appointed by former President Bill Clinton) and the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation. He was named as one of the top 100 most influential Hispanics by *National Hispanic Business Magazine* in 1999.

Gonzalez earned bachelor's and master's degrees in agricultural education from the University of Arizona and received his doctorate from Pennsylvania State University.

"With Miley's experience in the college, I'm looking forward to a good working relationship between NMDA and the college," said Dean Jerry Schickedanz. ❖

The Dean's Perspective

This month we are interviewing candidates for two of our three associate dean positions. Three candidates are finalists for the associate dean of Extension, and interviews wrap up the week of June 16. Four candidates for the associate dean of Academic Programs will take us through the end of the month.

Vitae for all candidates have been made available by the search committees. Seminars and receptions should give everyone access

to the candidates. If you haven't gotten access to vitae, contact Ron Parker or Jaime Castillo about the Extension and academic positions, respectively.

Of course, we must address the filling of these positions thoroughly and carefully as the direction and execution of these programs will be profoundly affected by our choices. So, get involved. Weigh in with your opinions after careful review of

the candidates. Obviously, there will be conflicting opinions, but they all matter.

In the end, the decisions will be made in the interest of making a great college greater and making it a more perfect servant of clients and students.

Six competed at College National Finals Rodeo

New Mexico State University calf roper Jarret Corn performed well in his final appearance at the College National Finals Rodeo in Casper, Wyo. June 8-14.

Corn received an 8.1 second time in calf roping, a time no other cowboy could beat. He placed fifth in calf roping last year. The Roswell native earned a degree in agricultural economics and agricultural business in May.

Corn qualified to compete at the CNFR by placing sixth at conference finals in Hobbs May 29-31. He had a time of 30.30 seconds on three runs.

Five other rodeo team members, who earned byes by finishing at No. 1 or No. 2 in the regional point standings, represented NMSU.

Senior Leah Stevenson won the championship round in calf roping in the National Finals, making her fifth in the nation. She qualified with a second-place regional finish

in breakaway roping at the conference finals.

Seniors Mandy Sproul and Clay Snure competed in team roping. Sproul placed fifth in the nation in women's all-around in the National Finals.

Sproul, a transfer student from Pearce, Ariz., earned byes in barrel racing and goat tying. Snure finished the season atop the regional standings in calf roping. In team roping, Kody Gentry, a sophomore from Dell City, Texas, earned a bye as a heeler with a first-place regional finish. Jarred Evans, a freshman from Reserve, earned a spot as a header.

Eighteen NMSU athletes competed in Hobbs—the largest group from a single school, coach Jim Dewey Brown said. The men's team finished sixth overall, while the women were seventh.

"The men's team had a good first round, then fell apart,"

Brown said. "What really hurt us was having no points from rough stock events."

Junior John Pete Etcheverry, who was sixth in the all-around at Hobbs, finished just one spot shy of qualifying in both steer wrestling and calf roping. "If there was a hard luck cowboy award, John Pete would have gotten it," Brown said.

Snure was eighth in steer wrestling and seventh in men's all-around at the conference finals. Brett Acuna finished ninth in calf roping.

Sproul was seventh in barrel racing and fourth in the women's all-around. Stevenson finished 12th in breakaway.

In preparation for the CNFR, team members competed at pro rodeo events in Colorado and Kansas, Brown said.

College faculty honored at state FFA convention

Six current and former faculty members from the College of Agriculture and Home Economics received honorary state FFA degrees June 3 for their contributions to agricultural education and FFA. The degree is the state organization's highest award for nonmembers.

Chris Cramer, Darlene Dickson, Jerry Hawkes, Frank Hodnett, Andy Nuñez and Mark Wise were recognized at the 75th Annual State FFA Convention at NMSU.

Cramer, an onion breeder with the Experiment Station, was honored for sharing his horticultural expertise with FFA members. He has helped coordinate the state FFA horticultural produce career development event for several years, serving as superintendent for the past two years.

Dickson, who retired Jan. 31 as a state 4-H specialist in home economics, was recognized for inspirational leadership and service with young people. With FFA, she assisted with the state horticultural produce career development event. As adviser for Collegiate 4-H, she involved NMSU students in FFA events to make sure they ran smoothly.

Hawkes, who teaches agribusiness management and microcomputer classes in Agricultural Economics and Agricultural Business, has helped coordinate the state FFA farm business management career development event. New Mexico FFA regularly places in the top 10 nationally in the event.

Hodnett, a 4-H Extension agent with the State 4-H Office, was honored for conducting high-quality

livestock showing schools each summer for 4-H members, students, Extension agents and agricultural teachers. He regularly brings 4-H and FFA members together.

State Rep. Andy Nuñez, formerly with the college, has impacted state policy and agricultural education programs. Nuñez serves on House committees for agriculture and water resources, rural economic development and telecommunications, and revenue stabilization and tax policy.

Mark Wise, head of Animal and Range Sciences, was recognized for his expertise and leadership in conducting FFA livestock career development events.♣

Phillips named dean at Arkansas State

Greg Phillips, professor in Agronomy and Horticulture, has been selected as dean of Arkansas State University's College of Agriculture.

"I was hired to help strengthen research and graduate programs," Phillips said. "Arkansas State is not a land-grant university, but about 15 percent of agricultural faculty members have joint Agricultural Experiment Station appointments through the University of Arkansas."

Arkansas State has an enrollment of 10,000 mostly undergraduate students. The agricultural college has about 300 students pursuing degrees in agricultural business, agri-

cultural education, animal science and plant science.

Phillips said he will be involved in creating a campus biosciences institute with faculty who have joint research and institute responsibilities.

Arkansas State is situated on rich delta farmland where rice and cotton production predominate. The campus is in Jonesboro, which has a population of 55,000.

A Kentucky native, Phillips came to NMSU in 1981. He directed molecular biology graduate programs from 1992 to 1999. He has developed gene transfer technologies

for chile and onions, as well as other crops, and was instrumental in establishing the Plant Genetic Engineering Laboratory.

Phillips has served as editor of the journal *Plant Cell Reports* since 1987 and as editor-in-chief of *In Vitro Plants* since 1999.

He won the college's 1991 Distinguished Service Award and was a member of the team that received a 2001 Fabian Garcia Founders Award of Excellence for smoothing three departments' move into Skeen Hall. ❖

Events

July 10-11

Fourth Annual Four Corners Irrigation Workshop—NMSU is helping host an areawide irrigation workshop July 10-11 in Shiprock. On July 10, presentations at the Shiprock Chapter House will cover topics such as how to transition from flood irrigation to gated pipe, using inexpensive sprinklers for small-scale irrigation and coping with water shortages on the San Juan River. On July 11, participants will take a field trip to a Shiprock irrigated farm, the Dine' College Demonstration Farm, NMSU's Agricultural Science Center at Farmington and Navajo Agricultural Products Industry. Registration is \$20 for both days or \$10 per day and can be paid in advance or at the door. For more information, contact Mick O'Neill at 327-7757.

July 14-18

State 4-H Conference—More than 600 4-H members from across the state will compete in contests such as livestock judging, fashion revue, wildlife habitat evaluation and public speaking during the State 4-H Conference July 14-18 on campus. Many winners will receive scholarships or trips to national competitions. Workshops, dances and a talent show round out the week's activi-

ties. For more information, contact Amy Zemler at 646-2504.

July 24

Gray Ranch Tour—The New Mexico Section of the Society for Range Management will offer a tour of the 321,000-acre Gray Ranch in southern New Mexico's bootheel on July 24. West. Participants will learn about fire ecology, prairie dog reintroduction as a range management tool, the Grassbank concept, conservation easements and the Gray Ranch's relationship with conservation groups such as The Nature Conservancy. Registration is \$70. The tour begins at 8:30 a.m. at the Gray Ranch headquarters. Lunch, water and soft drinks are provided on the tour. In the evening, participants can enjoy a barbecue dinner and dance at the ranch headquarters. For more information, contact David Graham, president-elect of the New Mexico Section, at (505) 374-7884.

July 31

Plant Science Academic Field Day—NMSU faculty and staff are invited to view research from the Leyendecker Plant Science Research Center and Fabian Garcia Research Science Center beginning at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, July 31. Tours are from 10 to 11:45 a.m.

to encourage collaboration among researchers, departments and colleges. The program adjourns after lunch. For more information contact Rick Bottoms, superintendent of the research centers, at 646-2282.

Aug. 6

Field Day—NMSU's Agricultural Science Center at Clovis—High Plains crop research will be showcased at a field day Aug. 6 at NMSU's Agricultural Science Center at Clovis. At the tour stops, scientists will discuss a cotton-peanut rotation study, annual forage crops, onion production, eastern New Mexico insects, forage water efficiency and variety trials' importance to producers. Activities begin at 8:30 a.m. with remarks from NMSU President Jay Gogue, Dean Jerry Schickedanz and Ty Curtis, head of the local advisory committee. Lunch will be served following the research tours. For more information, contact Rex Kirksey at 985-2292.

Aug. 23

Field Day—NMSU's Sustainable Agriculture Center at Alcalde—An overview and guided tours of Alcalde science center fields will begin at 8:30 a.m. A meal will be provided. For more information, contact Steve Guldan at 852-2668.

Thompson new director at state Game and Fish

Bruce Thompson, adjunct professor and unit leader with the New Mexico Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research at NMSU, left NMSU this spring to serve as director of the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish in Santa Fe.

He oversees operations of the state agency responsible for management, information and research related to recreational use and conservation of fish and other wildlife in New Mexico.

Along with his duties as director, he is serving a three-year term on the Board of Governors of the Society for Conservation Biology.

From 1990 to 2003, Thompson was the assistant leader, acting unit leader and unit leader of the cooperative unit at NMSU, where he

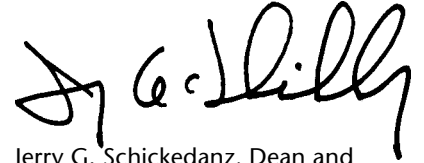
oversaw almost 30 research projects for several state and federal agency sponsors.

Thompson also taught a course titled "Communicating Wildlife Resource Conservation in Society" to undergraduate and graduate students in Fishery and Wildlife Sciences.

In 1996, Thompson received a plaque from The Wildlife Society for service as editor in chief of the *Wildlife Society Bulletin* from 1994 to 1995. He received the college's Team Award in 1998 with members of the Gap Analysis Project research team and the New Mexico Professional Award from the New Mexico Chapter of Wildlife Society for his contributions to wildlife conservation in 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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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.