

*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. 13, No. 3, March 1999

### The Dean's Perspective

I have returned with our supporters from our annual trek to Washington with a renewed sense of hope that the federal government partner may not be ready to relinquish its support for Extension and the Experiment Station.

Supporters John Clemmons and Morgan Nelson, of the Council for Agricultural Research, Extension and Teaching, saw the same change in atmosphere that I did. Talk shifted away from reductions in funding and toward addressing needs through funding.

We made our point that the percent change in research and development (R & D) funding has been in the negative column for Extension and the Experiment Station. At the same time, R & D funding has gone up considerably for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, National Institutes of Health, Environmental Protection Agency, National Science Foundation, Department of Interior and even other aspects of the USDA.

We made it clear that reducing formula funds in order to increase competitive grant funds hurts the competitiveness of states like New Mexico that depend on that money to keep a baseline capability alive to compete for grants.

We think our message was heard, and we thank our congressional delegation and other leaders for listening.

## Equestrian Complex drive kicked off at tournament

More than 50 people attended a breakfast kickoff for the NMSU Equestrian Complex on Saturday, March 13 in the judging pavilion. Jerry Schickedanz, interim dean and chief administrative officer of the College of Agriculture and Home Economics, told the group of friends and supporters that establishing the complex was important to reemphasize Western traditions. The drive has to be led by private donations, he added.

Bobby Rankin, head of Animal and Range Sciences, introduced the group to plans for the 5,200-square-foot Equestrian Complex with tack room, locker rooms, classroom and office. "We need this right now to support the daily programs that are

underway in our teaching program," Rankin said.

Rankin unveiled plans for a 1,000-seat, 44,300-square-foot covered arena as well, complete with concession stands and press box.

After the unveiling, participants went to the outdoor equestrian arena to watch the Tournament of Champions Western Equitation Show. The Intercollegiate Horse Show Association event featured 22 teams from 12 universities. The show took place on the site of the proposed facilities.

NMSU took second place behind The Ohio State University. Ohio State also won this competition last year, only to be upset by NMSU in the following national championship. ❖

## Cunningham new research veep

Gary Cunningham has been named vice president for research at NMSU. For the past two years, he has filled the position on an interim basis.

As vice president for research, Cunningham oversees research for the entire university. His new duties went into effect March 2 and will now take 51 percent of his time at NMSU.

Cunningham has been the associate dean and director of the Experiment Station since 1990. As

director, he oversees research operations in the College of Agriculture and Home Economics, both on campus and at research facilities in 10 locations across New Mexico.

Cunningham received his doctorate in botany from the University of California at Los Angeles in 1968. That year, he became an assistant professor of biology at NMSU. He became a full professor in 1977. He was head of the NMSU biology department from 1984 to 1990. ❖

## Entomology students qualify for nationals

Four students in Entomology, Plant Pathology and Weed Science recently placed first in the Linnaean Games, an entomology-based question and answer competition.

The contest was held during the Southwest Branch meeting of the Entomological Society of America, Feb. 24–25, at the Las Cruces Hilton. The team qualified for the national competition to be held in December in Atlanta, Ga.

Team members Lupe Carrasco, Andrine Morrison, Ricardo Ramirez and J. Chris Romero answered questions about all areas of entomology.

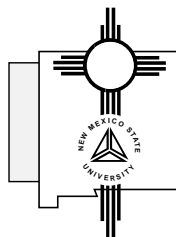
During the contest, each team was asked 16 questions. For each question, team members could not consult each other, but any member could answer. Correct answers earned team members a bonus question, which they could answer together.

The NMSU team competed against two teams from Texas A&M University and one from Oklahoma State University. They received \$500 to help pay for their travel to the national competition.

**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.



## Road to Santa Fe

At this writing, a budget bill for public and higher education in New Mexico is being prepared for delivery to the governor. The bill contains a 5.25-percent compensation increase for faculty and a 4.25-percent increase for staff.

NMSU's College of Agriculture and Home Economics had an additional \$420,000 rolled into its base budgets (\$225,000 for Extension and \$195,000 for the Experiment Station) resulting from efforts to enhance the Alcalde and Clayton agricultural science centers.

Line items for the New Mexico Department of Agriculture in the bill include \$50,000 for research to study the feasibility of industrial hemp, \$25,000 for the New Mexico's Own marketing program, and \$50,000 to support an initiative to grow and market organic wheat in northern New Mexico. The bill also includes \$1 million in new funds

for NMSU library acquisitions.

There was no word on capital outlay funds that might affect furnishings for the new Center for Sustainable Development of Arid Lands and a greenhouse facility for the Agricultural Science Center at Artesia.

Already signed into law was a bill providing cost of living increases for retirees in the Educational Retirement system. Also, a bill outlining rules for establishing, operating and terminating boll weevil districts was signed. The bill will allow districts to fund needed activities up-front.

Several other college initiatives are still alive as separate bills, but they await 11th-hour transactions related to the budget bill. The governor will have until Friday, March 19 to sign or veto the bill, with adjournment scheduled for Saturday, March 20. ❖

## Western team qualifies for nationals, individuals qualify for zone competition

NMSU's Western Equestrian Team is first in the region after recently beating Colorado State University. The show was held Feb. 27–28 at CSU. The team will go on to the national competition April 23–25 in Cazenovia, N.Y.

Individual riders in the top three places in their events qualified to compete in the zone competition March 27–28 at CSU. The top three contestants there will continue on to nationals. These riders include: beginners—Melanie Curry and Michelle Maccarrone; intermediate—Stephanie Hefley and Wendy Kiess; open rail stock seat—Kari

Dickerson and Jeb Stuart; and open rein—Kari Dickerson.

Jeb Stuart was the region's American Quarter Horse Association high-point, stock-seat rider. He will compete at nationals in the AQHA open horsemanship class, which involves showing a horse on the rail and in a reining pattern.

In English competition, the NMSU team was second behind CSU. Four NMSU riders qualified individually for zone competition: Jessica Ackerman in novice fences; Kiess in walk, trot, canter; Maureen McCamley in intermediate flat; and Sam Marusich in walk, trot. ❖

## Culbertson and Manatt confirmed

Avery Culbertson, a junior in Agricultural and Extension Education from Las Cruces, was confirmed Feb. 18 by the New Mexico Senate as the student representative to the NMSU Board of Regents. She had been nominated by Gov. Gary Johnson for the two-year term.

James C. Manatt Jr., also was appointed to the board by the gov-

ernor. He was confirmed by the New Mexico Senate March 4. Manatt fills the position formerly held by Carl Faubion, whose term expired Jan. 1.

Manatt is cofounder and chief executive officer of Providence Technologies Inc., an oil and gas exploration company in Roswell. ❖

## Wool judging team finishes successful year

NMSU's wool judging team finished its season by placing seventh at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo's Wool and Mohair Judging Contest March 1.

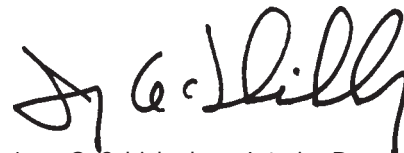
The team also placed fourth in mohair grading.

In February, they traveled to San Antonio, Texas, to compete in the San Antonio Livestock Show and Exposition's first-ever wool judging contest. NMSU's team finished sixth, with several individuals placing as well.

"The team worked really hard all year and represented NMSU very well," said coach Mike Salisbury. The team will finish the year by organizing and officiating the State FFA Wool Judging Contest March 26.

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

Department of Agricultural Communications  
NMSU, MSC 3AI  
Las Cruces, NM 88003-8003  
(505) 646-2701  
Rm. 173, Gerald Thomas Hall

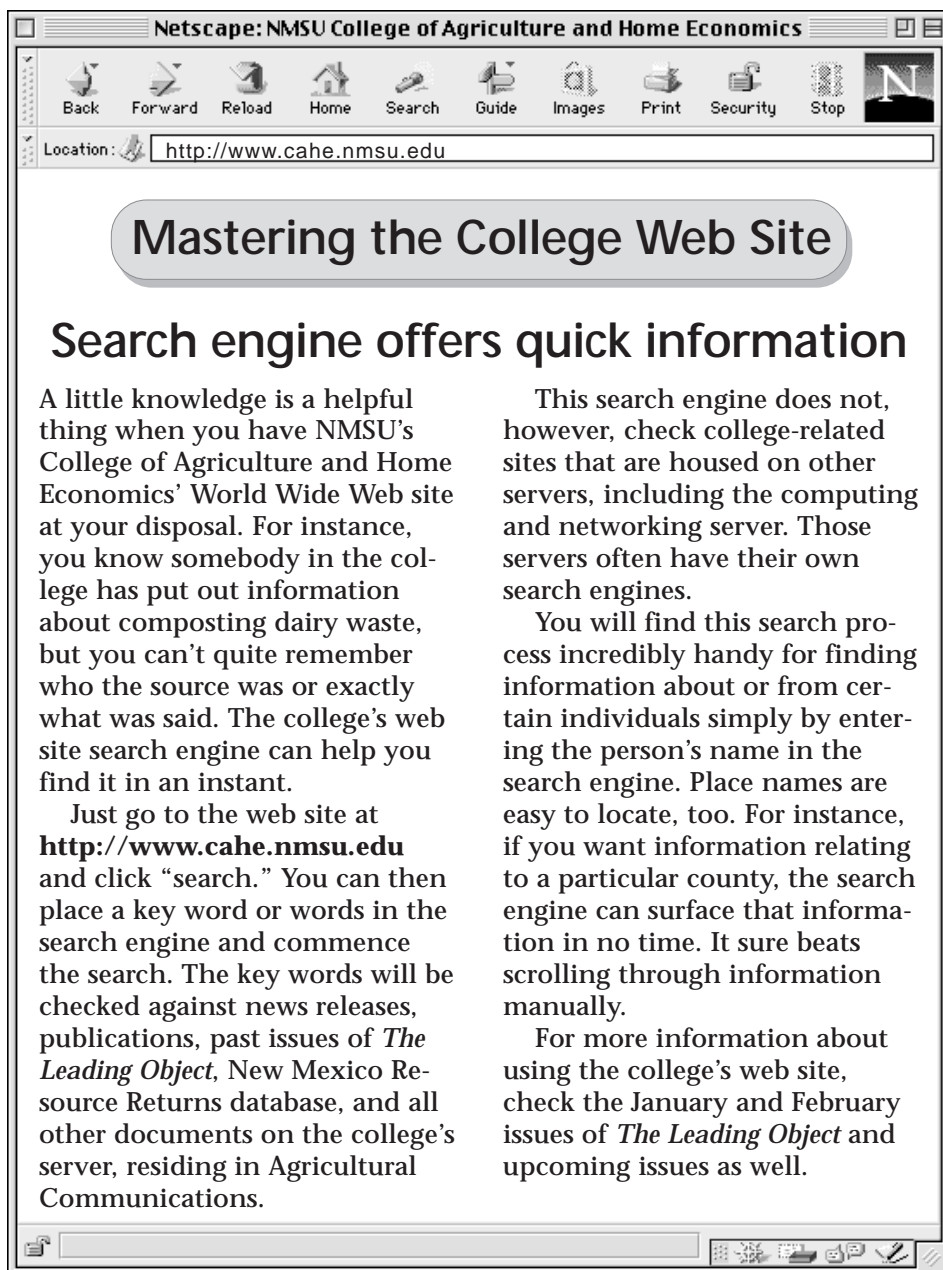


Jerry G. Schickedanz, Interim Dean and Chief Administrative Officer



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**Mastering the College Web Site**

### Search engine offers quick information

A little knowledge is a helpful thing when you have NMSU's College of Agriculture and Home Economics' World Wide Web site at your disposal. For instance, you know somebody in the college has put out information about composting dairy waste, but you can't quite remember who the source was or exactly what was said. The college's web site search engine can help you find it in an instant.

Just go to the web site at <http://www.cahe.nmsu.edu> and click "search." You can then place a key word or words in the search engine and commence the search. The key words will be checked against news releases, publications, past issues of *The Leading Object*, New Mexico Resource Returns database, and all other documents on the college's server, residing in Agricultural Communications.

This search engine does not, however, check college-related sites that are housed on other servers, including the computing and networking server. Those servers often have their own search engines.

You will find this search process incredibly handy for finding information about or from certain individuals simply by entering the person's name in the search engine. Place names are easy to locate, too. For instance, if you want information relating to a particular county, the search engine can surface that information in no time. It sure beats scrolling through information manually.

For more information about using the college's web site, check the January and February issues of *The Leading Object* and upcoming issues as well.

# In Memoriam

## NMSU cotton breeder Glen Staten dies

Glen Staten, retired College of Agriculture and Home Economics professor and cotton breeder, died Feb. 28 at age 92 in Las Cruces. He worked at NMSU for 38 years.

After becoming head of NMSU's Acala cotton breeding program in the early 1950s, Staten developed lines that have been used in breeding programs throughout the world. He played a key role in developing New Mexico Acala 1517 cotton and in maintaining and improving its superior quality. Varieties released under his direction represent significant advances in yield, disease tolerance, fiber quality and harvesting efficiency.

In a recent study, almost half the new upland cotton varieties in the United States traced back to NMSU's breeding program. It is estimated that Staten's efforts have produced 100 million bales of high-quality cotton.

Staten also started the state's alfalfa breeding program and developed the first alfalfa variety in the United States with resistance to fusarium wilt. He organized and sponsored the first Agronomy Club at NMSU and helped build a strong agronomy curriculum.

In 1998, he was named an honorary member of the college's Sam Steel Society. Staten received the Honorary Lifetime Achievement Award from the New Mexico Crop Improvement Association in 1995 and the 1997 Cotton Genetics Research Award.

## Stucky dies at age 94

Former NMSU professor H. Ralph Stucky died March 9 in Las Cruces at the age of 94.

In 1954, Stucky came to NMSU to head Agricultural Economics and Agricultural Business. Before that, he worked at Montana State University in Bozeman as an Extension economist.

The next year, he held the first

annual New Mexico State Water Conference to teach his students and New Mexico citizens about the importance of water to the state's economy.

In the early 1960s, he worked with then NMSU President Roger Corbett to establish a water research institute—even before the federal Water Resources Research Act of 1964 offered federal funding for such institutes. In 1970, the institute's building was named Stucky Hall by NMSU's Board of Regents. Stucky served as the institute's director until 1971.

After his retirement from NMSU in 1971, he worked with a group to establish the University Terrace Good Samaritan Retirement Village in Las Cruces.

Stucky was named an honorary member of the College of Agriculture and Home Economics' Sam Steel Society in 1998.

He was a member of the Presbyterian Church and the Las Cruces Rotary Club.

## ETC.

### Gnatkowski new Lincoln County 4-H coordinator

Pete Gnatkowski began work in January as the Extension 4-H program coordinator in Lincoln County.

"I am really looking forward to working with the kids," he said. Gnatkowski is returning to Extension after 22 years. He was the 4-H agent in Otero County from 1975 to 1977.

Since then, he has operated his family's ranch near Carrizozo. He also worked on a ranch in Yerbanis, Durango, Mexico for two years.

"My goal is to increase 4-H enrollment in Lincoln County. I think the 4-H program has the po-

tential to do a lot for the kids in this area," Gnatkowski said. "I plan to work more in the Ruidoso area to get the southern end of the county more involved."

He has volunteered as the wool judging coach for the county's 4-H team and the Corona and Carrizozo FFA teams and has taken two state-champion 4-H teams to the national competition in Sonora, Texas.

Gnatkowski received a bachelor's degree in animal science from NMSU in 1972.

He is a member of the Corona Board of Education and the Lincoln County Public Lands Use Advisory Committee. He's also assistant superintendent of the wool show at the New Mexico State Fair.

### Breiter elected to Faculty Senate

Deborah Breiter, interim department head and associate professor in Hotel, Restaurant and Tourism Management, was elected last month to serve on the NMSU Faculty Senate.

Breiter, who has been at NMSU for five years, will serve until spring 2000. She fills the position vacated by former HRTM head Pat Moreo, who left in December.

"I am glad to represent the College of Agriculture and Home Economics as well as my department," she said.

The 56-member senate has five standing committees. Breiter will

— continued on page 5

serve on the faculty affairs committee. "People with concerns about faculty issues that they think should be addressed by the senate should talk to me," Breiter said.

Breiter added that she is looking forward to learning more about the university and meeting people from different areas. "It will be a good way to find out what is being done in other departments," she said.

## HRTM raising money for move to GTH

A dinner to benefit Hotel, Restaurant and Tourism Management will be held at the Las Cruces Hilton April 15 at 6:30 p.m.

The dinner and silent auction will help raise money to renovate the department's new area in Gerald Thomas Hall. HRTM, which now is in Knox Hall, is scheduled to move after other offices move into the Center for Sustainable Development of Arid Lands.

Tickets will be sold for \$50 each. For reservations, call (505) 646-5995.

## Awards Day nominations due March 26

Nominations for the College of Agriculture and Home Economics' 36<sup>th</sup> annual Awards Day are due in the dean's office by March 26.

Students, faculty and staff are eligible for awards, and nominations can be made by anyone. Nomination forms and information on each award can be picked up in the dean's office.

Faculty and staff are eligible for teaching, research, Extension, service and classified staff awards. Stu-

dents are eligible to receive the Dean's Award of Excellence for undergraduate and graduate students and the outstanding student in agriculture and the outstanding student in family and consumer sciences awards.

The ceremony is scheduled for April 23 at 10 a.m. in the Gerald Thomas Hall auditorium. A light lunch will follow.

## Student accepted into scholar program

Sonja Koukel, a senior in Family and Consumer Sciences, was one of 13 students accepted this year into the NMSU Ronald E. McNair post-baccalaureate achievement program.

Through the two-year McNair program, minority and low-income, first-generation college students have an opportunity to better prepare themselves for doctoral study.

In the first year, Koukel has the opportunity to participate in research projects with her faculty mentor, Merrillyn Cummings. She also is preparing for graduate entrance exams and will participate in an eight-week summer research internship for which a \$2,200 stipend will be awarded.

Koukel will report on her findings through the writing and formal presentation of a research paper following the internship.

NMSU is one of 99 universities selected to host a McNair program. Applications for the 1999-2000 school year are being accepted until March 19.

For more information or to pick up an application, contact Margaret Mendoza at 646-7799. ❖

## Deans' Coffee Time

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



## Grants

### Academic Programs

Lindsey, D.L. and A. Chavez, "USDA Hispanic Serving Institutions Liaison," Nov 1998, \$80,808, U.S. Department of Agriculture-Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service-Educational Grants Program.

Lindsey, D.L. and A. Chavez, "The Bridge for Success," Dec 1998, \$270,000, USDA-CSREES-Educational Grants Program.

### Agricultural Communications

Gleason, B.J., "Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum Kiosk Exhibit," Nov 1998, \$20,000, State of New Mexico-Office of Cultural Affairs-Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum.

Gleason, B.J., "A Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures Multimedia," Jan 1999, \$45,000, USDA-Foreign Agricultural Service.

Gleason, B.J., "Savor the Flavor-New Mexico Onions," Feb 1999, \$15,000, New Mexico Dry Onion Commission.

### Agricultural Economics

Catlett, L.B. and J.D. Libbin, "Delivering Risk Management Education to Agricultural Producers in New Mexico," Feb 1999, \$5,000, Texas Agricultural Extension Service-The Texas A&M University System.

Clary, C.R. and B.J. Gleason, "Multiple Media Techniques for Geographically Isolated and Minority Students," Nov 1998, \$80,000, USDA-CSREES.

Falk, C.L., "Marketing Predator-Friendly Beef," Oct 1998, \$2,500, Jim Winder.

Gorman, W.D., "Facility Exchange Program (FEP)," Oct 1998, \$32,319, USDA-FAS.

Lansford, R.R., "Economic Impact Assessment," Feb 1999, \$40,000, U.S. Department of Energy.

### Agricultural Experiment Station

Cunningham, G., et al., "Southwestern Pecan Research," Jan 1999, \$248,625, USDA-Agricultural Research Service.

Agricultural and Extension Education  
Dormody, T.J., "Extension Internship Program," Jan 1999, \$94,000, USDA-CSREES.

### Agricultural Science Center at Artesia

Flynn, R.P., "Site-Specific Soil Variability in New Mexico Cotton Fields," Jan 1999, \$10,000, Cotton Incorporated-Core Program.

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Flynn, R.P., "Site-Specific Soil Variability in New Mexico Cotton Fields," Jan 1999, \$5,000, Cotton Incorporated-State Support Program.

Pierce, J.B., "Pecos Valley Farmers Boll Weevil Project," Feb 1999, \$30,000, New Mexico Pecos Valley Farmers Association.

**Agricultural Science Center  
at Farmington**

Arnold, R.N., "Pest Control Management," Jan 1999, \$2,000, Bayer Agriculture Division.

**Agronomy and Horticulture**

Cantrell, R.G., "Use of Chemical Mutagenesis to Develop Enhanced Fiber Characteristics in Cotton," Jan 1999, \$5,500, TXCot Award through Texas Tech University.

Cramer, C.S., "Genetic Improvement of Onions," Jan 1999, \$3,358, New Mexico Dry Onion Commission.

Cramer, C.S., "Development of Improved Onion Varieties in New Mexico," Dec 1998, \$27,000, New Mexico Dry Onion Commission.

Fowler, J.L., "Development of Guayule as a New Crop for the Production of Hypoallergenic Latex," Dec 1998, \$56,818, USDA-CSREES-Funds for Rural America through the University of Arizona.

O'Connell, M.A., "Drought-Responsive Genes in Populations from Desert Habitats," Dec 1998, \$12,500, International Arid Lands Consortium.

Picchioni, G.A., "Preharvest Calcium Nutrition and its Potential to Extend the Vase Life of Cut Bluebonnet Flowers: Mechanism of Action at the Cell Membrane Level," Nov 1998, \$10,000, Fred C. Gloeckner Foundation Inc.

Wall, M.M., "Postharvest Physiology for New Mexico Onions," Dec 1998, \$18,400, New Mexico Dry Onion Commission.

**Animal and Range Science**

Duff, G.C., "Feed Consumption and Performance of Long-Haul, Stressed Cattle Treated with Banamine," Feb 1999, \$9,000, Schering-Plough Animal Health Sales Corp.

Duff, G.C., "Efficacy of Experimental Live Oral Vaccine Against Pneumonic Pasteurellosis in Shipped Cattle," Jan 1999, \$15,000, USDA-ARS.

Hallford, D., "Growth Promotants in Cattle," Jan 1999, \$13,180, Southwest Biolab.

**Cooperative Extension Service**

Schickedanz, J.G., "Technical Assistance/Support Energy and Environment Program," Nov 1998, \$7,656.86, USDA-FAS/International Cooperation and Development.

Schickedanz, J.G., "Technical Assistance/Support Energy and Environment Program," Nov 1998, \$28,061, USDA-FAS/ICD.

Schickedanz, J.G., "Technical Assistance/Support Energy and Environment Program," Jan 1999, \$80,882, USDA-FAS/ICD.

**Extension Economics**

Coppedge, R.O., "Spaceport Economic Development," Nov 1998, \$20,000, New Mexico-Economic Development Department.

Coppedge, R.O., "New Mexico Business Retention and Expansion (R and E) Program," Nov 1998, \$14,000, New Mexico-Economic Development Department.

Coppedge, R.O., "Revitalizing the Navajo Wool and Mohair Industry," Dec 1998, \$3,000, University of Arizona.

**Extension Home Economics**

Archuleta, M. and K. Bachman, "New Mexico Nutrition Education Project," Oct 1998, \$1,336,640, USDA-Food and Nutrition Service.

DelCampo, D., "Baby's First Wish Newsletter," Feb 1999, \$10,000, New Mexico Children, Youth and Families Department.

**Extension Plant Sciences**

Byford, R.L., "Cooperative Agricultural Pesticide Survey Program," Feb 1999, \$59,500, USDA-Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service-Plant Protection and Quarantine.

Runyan, C.R., "Doña Ana-Sierra Hydrologic Unit Project," Nov 1998, \$48,750, USDA-CSREES.

Smith, C.W., "Urban Horticulture," Jan 1999, \$2,000, Southwest Turfgrass Association.

**Northern District**

Gomez, E., "La Jicarita Enterprise Community Project," Feb 1999, \$30,000, La Jicarita Enterprise Community, Inc.

**Entomology Plant Pathology  
and Weed Science**

Huddleston, E.W., "Small Grants-Pathcor Design Consultants, Inc.," Nov 1998, \$15,000, Pathcor Design Consultants, Inc.

Kemp, J.D., "Plant Transformation and Vector Improvement," Jan 1999, \$47,004, Mycogen Corporation.

**Fishery and Wildlife Sciences**

Andersen, M.C., "Effects of Habitat Fragmentation and Alteration on Desert Lizards," Dec 1998, \$25,000, IALC.

Cole, R.A., "Intergovernmental Personnel Act for Richard Cole to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Institute for Water Resources in Alexandria, Va.," Dec 1998, \$55,810, U.S. Department of the Army-Corps of Engineers.

Thompson, B.C., "Incorporating Landscape Context in Conservation Planning Models for Fort Bliss Military Reservation, N.M. and Texas," Oct 1998, \$92,592, U.S. Geological Service-Biological Resources Division.

Thompson, B.C., "Population Demographics and Health of Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep in the San Francisco and Turkey Creek Drainages, N.M.," Feb 1999, \$21,500, New Mexico Department of Game and Fish.

**Jornada Experimental Range**

Havstad, K.M., "Support of Agricultural Research of Mutual Interest," Dec 1998, \$145,787, USDA-ARS.

Havstad, K.M., "Support of Agricultural Research of Mutual Interest," Dec 1998, \$36,300, USDA-ARS.

Havstad, K.M., "Desert Rangeland Management," Dec 1998, \$150,000, USDA-ARS. ✚