

*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. 13, No. 4, April 1999

### The Dean's Perspective

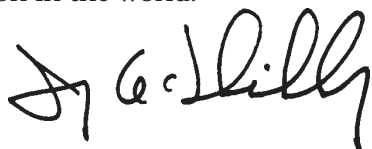
Amidst an economy of plenty, agriculture in our state and in our nation is in dire straits. Low prices and other adversities, including another mild winter that predicts relentless pests in our valleys, has our producers reeling.

It is more important than ever that we effectively serve agricultural producers. A popular book predicts that America will lose its leadership role in agriculture early in the next century, and that America will rely on a foreign food supply.

America's prosperity has been built on our ability to supply plentiful, safe and inexpensive food. But we are letting our guard down. The agricultural infrastructure, including formula-funded Extension and Experiment Station, are low priorities with many in Washington.

The best way to counter this troubling trend is to have all of agriculture unified behind an effort to assure that our basic programs funding in these agencies from state and federal levels becomes robust once again. We can't afford not to do this.

Please be a part of the movement to unify agriculture beyond its commodity boundaries in order that we might remain the pre-eminent agricultural producing nation in the world.



## College Awards Day on April 23

Outstanding students, faculty and other professionals around the state will be honored during the 36th Annual Awards Day Program at the College of Agriculture and Home Economics on April 23.

The celebration, called "Impacting Our Future," will begin at 10 a.m. in the Gerald Thomas Hall auditorium and will feature awards given in many different categories. The event is being organized by Susan Wright, Extension consumer education specialist.

Awards in teaching, service, Extension and research will be presented, along with the Dean's Award of Excellence. This special student award recognizes outstanding accomplishment and service within the college and university. Service for this award is defined as student activity that is above and beyond what is expected of members of student organizations represented on the Agriculture and Home Economics Council.

Awards are not only given to NMSU students and faculty during the ceremony, but also to individuals outside the university who continually show their support for agriculture and home economics.

A reception to honor the recipients will follow the ceremony and will be held in the pavilion. During the buffet, student advisors will introduce award winners. ❖

### Regents' Report

In March, NMSU's Board of Regents approved the appearance, site design and location of the new Jornada Experimental Range Headquarters, a 29,000-square-foot, federally funded building scheduled for construction beginning in fall 1999.

The \$7.4 million building will be located in the parking lot between Gerald Thomas and Knox halls as part of the College of Agriculture and Home Economics' complex.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is leasing land from NMSU to erect the research facility, which will house local scientists of the Agricultural Research Service and the Environmental Protection Agency.

According to NMSU architect Martin Hoffmeister, the building's design integrates the mission-style of architecture and master plan for the campus. The L-shaped building will face Knox and Frenger streets, helping to form a western edge to the campus, he said.

Construction is expected to take one year.

In other action, the board approved a 6.6 percent tuition and fee increase for the 1999-2000 academic year. Full-time, in-state students will pay \$78 more than in 1998-1999, while out-of-state students will pay \$258 more. Graduate rates will increase \$84 and \$264 for in-state and out-of-state students, respectively.

The new rates go into effect for the upcoming summer session.

With little discussion, the board also voted down a proposal to extend employee benefits to unmarried domestic partners and dependents. ❖

# 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.

## New law gives HRTM students more opportunities

A new law, signed on April 5, will allow 19- and 20-year-olds to serve alcohol in restaurants across New Mexico.

"The new law will give greater opportunities to our students," said Keith Mandabach, assistant professor with Hotel, Restaurant and Tourism Management. "Now our students will be able to get more experience and better pay with server positions."

The law, which will go into effect June 18, allows 19- and 20-year-olds to serve alcohol in restaurants but not in stores or bars. This is due to the amount of supervision

they will be working under in a restaurant environment, Mandabach said.

HRTM faculty and students, along with the New Mexico Restaurant Association, have been pushing for the change, Mandabach said. A recent survey given to students in the department showed that they were in favor of the law.

Individuals who choose to serve alcohol in restaurants must first become certified. Certification classes will cover how to properly serve alcohol, Mandabach said.

## Stith hired as graphic designer

Joanna Stith began work March 29 as the new graphic designer for Agricultural Communications.

She will design and lay out various College of Agriculture and Home Economics publications, including the *Sam Steel Way Newsletter* and *New Mexico Resources* magazine. Stith also will serve as designer for other projects like brochures and flyers.

"I would really like to try some new, experimental things and find a way to get some consistency going with the publications," Stith said.

Before coming to NMSU, she worked for Insta-Copy Printing, in Las Cruces, as a graphic designer.

She received a bachelor of fine arts degree with a specialization in graphic design from Bowling Green State University, in Bowling Green, Ohio, in 1997. ♣

## McKinley is new representative

Jeannie McKinley is the new NMSU Faculty Senate representative from Extension. She will take over the position from Charles Siepel at the first meeting of the new academic year on Sept. 2.

McKinley has worked with Extension since 1982 in a number of capacities, including 4-H, home economics and Extension homemakers.

As Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program home economist, McKinley supervises a team of family educators in Headstart programs. She also works with the Food Stamp Nutrition Education Program.

McKinley has won both the distinguished service and continued excellence awards from the National Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences. ♣

### Deans' Coffee Time

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



# Nominations sought for Distinguished Public Service Awards

Nominations for Distinguished Public Service Awards are being accepted until April 19. The awards are designed to recognize individuals who are residents of or are employed in New Mexico and have excelled in contributing to the community.

During the past 29 years, 280 citizens of New Mexico have been

recognized for their contributions. Those selected for the awards will be honored by Gov. Gary Johnson during an annual dinner in June.

Nomination recommendations should be dropped off in the dean's office. Nomination forms and more information about the awards can be received there. ❖

## Millerd receives scholarship

Celina Millerd, a senior in the College of Agriculture and Home Economics, received NMSU's Debra Orozco Memorial Scholarship for Hispanic Students in March.

The \$200 scholarship is offered to Hispanic graduate students who help others.

In addition, Millerd recently won \$1,500 from the National Hispanic Scholarship Fund. The grade- and need-based scholarship was given to 1,800 Hispanic students across the nation.

Millerd is a Crimson Scholar who has been involved in the McNair Achievement Program and is writing her senior thesis on military mothers and their children.

Millerd has been accepted into the marriage and family therapy track of the family and child science master's program and will begin her graduate work this summer.

"Celina is a wonderful student with a great motivation to succeed," said Ester Devall, an associate professor in Family and Consumer Sciences. "She's a terrific role model for others'."

The screenshot shows a Netscape browser window titled "Netscape: NMSU College of Agriculture and Home Economics". The address bar contains "http://www.cahe.edu/news/". The main content area features a large heading "Mastering the College Web Site" in a rounded box, followed by the sub-heading "News site handy for everyone". The text below discusses the availability of news releases and other resources on the website, including a keyword search engine and a "Media Services" button. The browser interface includes standard navigation buttons like Back, Forward, Reload, Home, Search, Guide, Images, Print, Security, and Stop.

## Mastering the College Web Site

### News site handy for everyone

If you are not a news hound, you may not bother to click on "News" on the College of Agriculture and Home Economics' World Wide Web site. There is plenty of valuable information there, however, for people of all walks of life. The first thing you will see on <http://www.cahe.edu/news/>

is a listing of the latest Agricultural Communications news releases.

You also can use a keyword search engine to find old news releases, too. Or, if you prefer, you can get a chronological list of news releases by year, going back to 1995.

But there is a lot more, including an archive of Curtis Smith's "Yard and Garden" columns, a calendar of college-related events and a special "Media Services" button that opens the door to other sites.

Under "Media Services," there is an expertise guide of college faculty organized by topics, agricultural clip art that is handy for newsletters and publications and a glossary of agricultural terms you can refer your local media reporters to in order to help them cover agriculture.

Under "Media Services," we also have buttons that immediately link users to web sites for both the New Mexico Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The NMDA site includes agricultural statistics for the state. The USDA site is a treasure trove of information, including current market prices for agricultural commodities.

Don't be put off by terms like "news" and "media services," this is information for everyone.

# Publications

- Ball S.T. How to Hire a Crop Consultant. NMSU CES Guide A-607. Jan 1999.
- Ball S.T. Using On-Farm Tests. NMSU CES Guide A-608. Feb 1999.
- Boren J.C., and B.D. Wright. Identifying and Preserving Wildlife Tracks. NMSU CES Circular 561. Mar 1999.
- Harper W.M. Changes in New Mexico Agriculture 1994. NMSU AES Res. Report 729. Sep 1998.
- Hawkes J.M., and J.D. Libbin. Crop Cost and Return Estimates in New Mexico, 1996. NMSU AES Res. Report 729. Oct 1998.
- Lansford R., F. Jallad, R. Skaggs, L. Gow, F. McClellan, and L. Wayne. A Study of Health Care Needs and Attitudes in Low- and Moderate-Income Areas of Las Cruces, New Mexico. NMSU AES Bulletin 781. Nov 1998.
- Pierce J.B., and C. Sutherland. Early Season Pest Management of Boll Weevil in New Mexico. NMSU CES Guide A-233. Jan 1999.
- Skaggs R., W. Gorman, J. Gardner, and T. Crawford. Surveys of New Mexico Alfalfa Producers and Dairy Users: Will Growth of the State's Dairy Industry be Limited by Alfalfa Availability? NMSU AES Res. Report 731. Mar 1999.
- Sterling T.M., and D.C. Thompson. Locoweed Research Updates and Highlights. NMSU AES Res. Report 730. Jan 1999.
- Sutherland C.A., L.M. English, and R.L. Byford. Red Imported Fire Ant in New Mexico: Control in Electrical Equipment and Utility Housings. NMSU CES Guide G-319. Jan 1999.
- Ward F.A., and E.V. Ness. Economic Impacts of New Mexico State Parks: An Input-Output Analysis. NMSU AES Res. Report 727. Nov 1998.

## Special session called for May 4

Gov. Gary Johnson has called a special legislative session for May 4 to resolve budgets for state government and education.

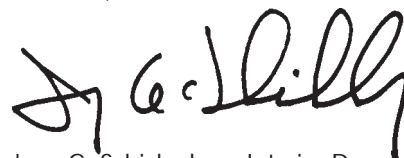
The budget bill vetoed in March, included \$195,400 for the Experiment Station and \$220,400

for Extension to enhance programs at Alcalde and Clayton.

The vetoed bill included a 4-percent compensation increase for university staff and a 5-percent increase for faculty.

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

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