

*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. 5, May 1999

Owens appointed executive vice president

John Owens, former dean and chief administrative officer of the College of Agriculture and Home Economics, was named NMSU's executive vice president on April 30. Owens served in the position on an interim basis since June 1997.

"I believe that John will continue to provide strong leadership in this most important and demanding NMSU administrative assignment," said William Conroy, NMSU president and Owens' predecessor as executive vice president.

Owens headed the college from 1985 to 1997 and has been an NMSU faculty member since 1977. This month he became president of the Southwestern and Rocky Mountain Division of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, which covers 10 U.S. states and portions of Mexico and Canada.

In 1995, he represented 375 university administrators by chairing the Board on Agriculture for the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges. The previous year, he chaired the council of Administrative Heads of Agriculture, which included administrators from 73 universities and colleges. ❖

Vice president outlines dean search

John Owens, NMSU executive vice president, said the national search for the dean and chief administrative officer of the College of Agriculture and Home Economics will commence as soon as possible.

The position became vacant when Owens accepted appointment as executive vice president on April 30. "Shortly, I will send a memorandum to the college faculty asking individual departments to elect faculty for service on the search committee," Owens said.

"Because of the broad mission of the college, I anticipate a relatively large committee with elected faculty representatives from each Extension and academic department." Owens added that he would appoint additional members.

He said he expects the committee to develop a job description and announcement, advertise nationally over the summer and begin interviews in the fall.

The Dean's Perspective

Now that John Owens is NMSU's executive vice president, it is appropriate to look back on his tenure as dean and chief administrative officer of the College of Agriculture and Home Economics. It is particularly important to do this for the benefit of those who were not here during the days of decline of this college.

There was a time when the future of the college as an undergraduate institution was called into question. The decline in student numbers was rubbing off on the reputation of Extension and the Experiment Station. We had a deficit in Extension, and dollar support from the legislature was slowly but surely eroding year-by-year for both Extension and the Experiment Station.

What changed under John Owens? Everything. John Owens

was a problem solver and more. His vigilance and tenacity comprised the antidote we needed to counteract the poisonous situation we were in.

It was an aggressive antidote demanding review of our direction as a college; organization of student recruitment and college support groups; unabashed lobbying of our decision-makers; creative new curricular, research and Extension programs; and an all-for-one attitude.

While the most obvious result is being constructed across the street north of Gerald Thomas Hall, the most telling evidence is how far away those years of decline seem. Our undergraduate enrollment is approaching an all-time high, fueled by a broadened curriculum and a more diverse student body. Grant and contract monies are way up, not only in the Experiment Sta-

tion, but also in Extension where a decade ago it was not a participant in outside funding.

The rising tide of the college raised the boat of agriculture as well. We in agriculture certainly feel less threatened as a field of endeavor at NMSU than we did in the 1980s. The presence of the Agricultural Research Service and its resources are a greater part of our research programs than ever. The building of the new ARS building is testimony to that.

If I hadn't been here to see the change, it would be hard to comprehend. We can be thankful for the strong leadership John Owens provided.

Sam Steel Society to induct members on May 14

Graduates and friends of NMSU's College of Agriculture and Home Economics will be inducted into the Sam Steel Society during ceremonies May 14 at 4:30 p.m. in the Music Center Recital Hall.

The society honors the memory of Sam Steel, who would have been the first student to graduate from the university and the first to graduate from a New Mexico college. Steel was fatally shot in 1893, just weeks before graduation.

Since 1993, each graduating student of the college has been invited to join the society. This semester, more than 200 undergraduate and graduate students will be eligible for induction.

Information about the graduates' achievements and future plans is read as they walk across the stage to receive membership certificates.

Six New Mexicans will be made honorary members of the society. They are Priscilla Grijalva, a retired state Extension food and nutrition specialist; Sharon Lombardi, executive director of Dairy Producers of New Mexico; Cy Salazar, president of Associated Students of NMSU; David Salopek, a Mesilla Valley pecan grower; State Rep. Joe Stell, a rancher from Carlsbad; and Don Watson, longtime NMSU supporter and advisory board member for the Agricultural Science Center at Artesia.

Leaders, faculty, staff, students honored at college's 1999 Awards Day

Three community leaders were honored for their contributions to the agricultural industry April 23 by NMSU's College of Agriculture and Home Economics. Blake Curtis received the New Mexico Outstanding Leadership Award, Carl Faubion received the Leyendecker Agriculturist of Distinction Award, and Jim Paul received the T.D.A. Cockerell Award.

Jerry Schickedanz, the college's interim dean and chief administrative officer, announced the 1999 Awards Day winners as John Owens, NMSU executive vice president, presented them.

Curtis, of Melrose, is a former state representative. He operates the Curtis Ranch and co-owns Curtis and Curtis Seed.

He has served as vice chair for the New Mexico State Fair Commission and as the Curry County representative on the Extension Support Council. He currently is completing his second term as president of the support council.

Faubion first planted cotton and alfalfa in the Mesilla Valley in 1951. In 1992, he received the New Mexico Farm and Livestock Bureau's highest professional award for distinguished service to agriculture.

Faubion also has served as vice president of the New Mexico Farm and Livestock Bureau and president of the Doña Ana County Farm and Livestock Bureau. He has contributed to NMSU by serving on the Board of Regents for the past 12 years.

Paul, of El Paso, has held the athletic director position at NMSU since September 1998. He is resigning at the end of May. He focused attention on the academic performance of student-athletes. He created a hall of honor in the Pan American Center to recognize student-athletes with high grade point averages. Before coming to NMSU, Paul owned the El Paso

Diablos baseball franchise.

College faculty and staff members were honored with the following awards: Bill Gomez, Distinguished Service Award; Jill Schroeder, Distinguished Research Award; Curtis Monger, Distinguished Teaching Award; Anita Blanton, Distinguished Extension Award; David Archuleta, Distinguished Classified Staff Award; and David Thompson, National Association of Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture Teaching Award of Merit.

During his 25-year career as an Extension economist, Gomez has promoted New Mexico products from alfalfa to wine. He has developed three major wine festivals for the state, was the main contributor in starting a chile war with Texas and organized southern New Mexico farmers' efforts to fight the boll weevil.

Schroeder, an Entomology, Plant Pathology and Weed Science associate professor, is working to develop integrated weed management programs for chile, onions, cotton, grain sorghum and corn. She also studies herbicide activity in the soil.

Monger, an Agronomy and Horticulture associate professor, tries to give his students the "big picture" of soil science, including how long it takes soil to form. He teaches soils, soil morphology, soil classification, soil genesis and soils and land use.

Blanton, the Bernalillo County Extension program director, is a vocal advocate for New Mexico's farmers and ranchers. She conducts tours and other events for elected officials to improve their understanding of the land-grant university system.

Archuleta, the farm supervisor of the Sustainable Agricultural Science Center at Alcalde, is a skilled welder, mechanic, electrician, car-
(continued on next page)

(Awards Day continued)

penter and pesticide applicator. He maintains Alcalde's automated weather station.

Thompson, an Entomology, Plant Pathology and Weed Science associate professor, exposes students to the world of integrated pest management.

They learn what it takes to integrate a broad range of scientific and practical knowledge to accomplish economical and environmentally sound pest management.

Outstanding students from the college also were named during the ceremony. Eric Chavez of Albuquerque was named outstanding student in agriculture, and Sonja Koukel of Las Cruces was named the outstanding student in home economics.

Chavez will graduate in December with a bachelor's degree in environmental science. He has a 3.5 grade point average. He has been part of NMSU's men's soccer team and has been on the dean's list. He has been awarded the New Mexico State Transfer Student Scholarship, John and Ruth Overpeck Memorial Scholarship, and Alliance for Minority Participation Scholarship.

Koukel will graduate in December with a bachelor's degree in family and consumer science education. She has a 3.9 grade point

average. While in school, she has been involved in the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences, Aggie Student Alumni Association and the Student Association of Fashion Merchandising and Marketing.

In addition, Koukel is a Crimson Scholar active in the Golden Key Honor Society, Gamma Sigma Delta and the McNair Achievement Program.

Dean's Awards of Excellence also were presented to outstanding undergraduate and graduate students in the college. Undergraduate awardees included Eric Carpenter, agricultural biology; Joe Chavez, agricultural and extension education; Veronica Craig, horticulture; Caleb Kerr, agricultural economics and agricultural business; Pat Lynsky, hotel, restaurant and tourism management; Celina Millerd, family and consumer sciences; Danielle Padilla, animal science; and Drew Spencer, fishery and wildlife sciences.

Graduate student awardees included Kim Kane, animal and range sciences; Wendy Kuhne, fishery and wildlife sciences; Merranda Marin, family and consumer sciences; Mike Salisbury, animal and range sciences; and Peter Skelton, agricultural and extension education. ❖

Coppedge named to advisory board

Robert Coppedge, the economic development project leader with NMSU's Rural Economic Development Institute, will serve on an advisory board for U.S. West's New Mexico Opportunity Fund.

He joins 13 other leading economic development experts in New Mexico to help implement the company's creation of a million-dollar fund and hire a full-time economic development specialist. The specialist will serve as a resource to communities across the state.

"I am thankful that so many economic development leaders from all over the state are willing to serve on our Opportunity Fund Board," said Edward J. Lopez Jr., U.S. West's New Mexico vice president. "We want to get this fund up and running as quickly as possible because communities need these resources now."

The fund will be specifically targeted to help attract telecommunications-related industries and jobs. ❖

Equestrian Team places 7th in national Western horsemanship competition

NMSU's defending national champions in Western horsemanship placed seventh at the Intercollegiate Horse Show in Cazenovia, N.Y., April 23-25.

Four hundred sixty-one riders in both English and Western horsemanship were judged on their position atop an unfamiliar horse, said Debbie Jones, team coach and instructor with Animal and Range Sciences.

The four-member team consisted of Amy Allen of Deming, Kristi Gottsponer of Las Cruces, Wendy Jackson-Kiess of Los Alamos and Jeb Stuart of Las Cruces.

Allen placed seventh in the beginning Western division, Gottsponer was fifth in intermediate Western, and Stuart placed third in open reining.

"I'm very proud of them because they rode their horses thinking," Jones said. This is Jones' first year as NMSU coach and first time at nationals.

In a separate division for individual riders, NMSU's Cathy Cumberworth from Farmington won the alumni reining division.

Other NMSU riders were Jessica Ackerman from Albuquerque, fifth in novice equitation over fences; Melanie Curry from Los Lunas, fifth in beginner Western; and Sam Marusich from Artesia, eighth in walk/trot equitation. Stuart also placed eighth individually in open Western.

In the past five years, the NMSU Equestrian Team won two national championships in Western horsemanship in 1995 and 1998, and took reserve national champion in 1997.

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.

NAMA wins national honors

NMSU's National Agri-Marketing Association (NAMA) chapter received its second outstanding chapter award and placed fourth in the marketing competition, NMSU's best finish to date at the national conference.

NMSU competed against 29 teams from across the country in two separate contests April 7-8 in Atlanta. "It takes a lot of hard work and determination. But when you get there and compete, it's all worth it," said Lori Schlotfeldt, team member.

NAMA collegiate chapters focus on undergraduates interested in agricultural marketing, sales and business careers. Sixty students belong to NMSU's chapter. The chapter was created five years ago and has won a national award each year.

The event in which NMSU's chapter outshone the rest this year was the outstanding chapter competition, based on an annual report. Alison Sudderth of El Paso was in charge of compiling the NMSU chapter's report.

The marketing competition is based on work done in a semester-long class called agribusiness market planning. Students research a product, develop a one- to three-year marketing plan and present it to the product's manufacturer.

This year, NMSU marketed a feed additive called Rumizyme.

Rumizyme, a real product produced by Agri-Science, is designed to aid milk production in dairy cattle.

The chapter's marketing plan and 20-minute oral presentation placed fourth overall, NMSU's highest placing ever.

"I am proud of our students' consistently strong performance year after year," said Cynda Clary, adviser and assistant professor in Agricultural Economics and Agricultural Business.

The chapter also received two innovative idea awards for chapter management and programs. NMSU's chapter president, Lucia Bond, a junior agricultural economics and agricultural business major, won a \$1,000 national NAMA scholarship.

Students who presented NMSU's marketing project at the competition were Kirby Chacon, Avery Culbertson, Caleb Kerr, Kris Massey, Ira Pearson, Raelynn Pirtle and Anna Serrano. The teaching assistant for this year's group was Tomás Baca.

Other NAMA team members who attended the conference were Joey Bedoya, Bond, Shaundra Gardner, Teri Hall, Shacey Hatch, Adam Kusmak, Gabe Ludwig, Jodie Matejcek, Twilla Parker, T.J. Runyan, Schlotfeldt, Derik Stucker and Sudderth. ❖

Budget containing raises passes

The legislature sent a budget bill to Gov. Gary Johnson May 10 that contains raises for faculty and staff, plus additional funding for two NMSU science centers.

The bill includes a 5-percent compensation increase for university faculty with instruction and general appointments and a 4-percent increase for other university faculty and staff. The administration of the College of Agriculture and Home Economics had expressed concerns

about the legislation's discrimination between faculty. The funds were assigned based on a headcount definition of teaching faculty.

Legislation also included enhancements of \$195,200 to the Experiment Station and \$220,400 for Extension budgets to support the Sustainable Agricultural Science Center at Alcalde and the Clayton Livestock Research Center.

Gov. Johnson had three days to sign or veto the legislation. ❖

Fedio new food technology specialist

Willis Fedio began work May 3 as an Extension food technology specialist.

Fedio will be based in Las Cruces with statewide responsibilities for training and research in food technology.

A food microbiologist, Fedio is experienced in working in both research laboratories and food processing plants to prevent and detect contamination. He has conducted in-plant training and helped start incentive programs for food safety in processing.

Most recently, Fedio worked as an assistant professor in the Department of Applied Microbiology and Food Science at the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada.

Though he has worked with products ranging from beef to pea flour, Fedio has a special interest in dairy research. While with the

Alberta Dairy Association's research unit, he worked on chemical analysis of dairy products, methods to extend their shelf life and value-added products from milk. He has testified as an expert witness in cheese authenticity lawsuits in Canada. His doctoral thesis was on determining the sources of listerial contamination in raw milk and factors affecting the organism's heat resistance.

Fedio earned a doctorate in food microbiology in 1991, a master's degree in food microbiology in 1986 and a bachelor's degree with an emphasis in genetics in 1980, all from the University of Alberta.

"I look forward to working with both food producers and processors and county Extension agents in training and education programs," he said. "I want my research to be driven by what people here need and want to know." ❖

Cassen Cibola Co. home economist

Sandy Cassen began work May 3 as the new Extension home economist in Cibola County.

Cassen will be responsible for nutrition and family life education programs in the county. She also will be involved in the county's 4-H program. Cassen will be working out of the Extension office in Grants.

"Since this position has been vacant for two years, my first priorities are to let people know that I'm

here and to find out what their needs are," Cassen said.

Before taking the position, she worked as a bookkeeper at Tire Center Plus in Las Cruces.

Cassen has bachelor's and master's degrees in family and consumer science from NMSU in 1995 and 1998, respectively. She is a member of Alpha Zeta honors fraternity. She is a graduate of Goddard High School in Roswell. ❖

Horticulture students place in national competition

NMSU horticulture students placed fifth at the Floral Crops Quality Evaluation and Design Competition in Reading, Pa. The competition April 7-9 included team judging and individual floral design contests.

NMSU students competed against nine other teams: California Polytechnic, Pennsylvania State, Kansas State, Oklahoma State, Utah State, University of Illinois, Texas A&M, University of Wisconsin and South Dakota State.

"We finished in front of some schools that have really big floriculture programs," said Geno Picchioni, team coach and assistant horticulture professor.

Eight NMSU students practiced quality and design evaluation from January to March. The team worked outside of class with the help of Picchioni and assistant coach Sabine Green. Team members were Sandy Stout, Michele Hudson, Jana Egbert, William McGinnis, Angie Barber, Veronica Craig, Elaine Tourjeé and Carla Logan.

The judging team, made up of Craig, Tourjeé and Barber, evaluated the quality of 30 different groups of cut flowers and potted plants.

Team members Craig and Tourjeé both scored in the top 15. Tourjeé placed eighth and Craig placed 14th in the quality evaluation. Thirty students competed in the judging part of the contest where students had three minutes to rate the quality of each crop.

In individual floral design competition, divided into professional and nonprofessional categories, two NMSU students blossomed. Stout placed third in professional design choice. Hudson placed second in centerpiece design, amateur division.

Deans' Coffee Time

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



Videos

Recent additions to the Agricultural Communications video library

VT: 1417A

Managing Home Construction Part 1. (2 hrs.) 1998.

Producer: Hometown (copyright). Step-by-step guide to managing the construction of your home is presented in an informative way.

VT: 1417B

Managing Home Construction Part 2. (2 hrs.) 1998.

Producer: Hometown (copyright).

VT: 1418

IALC Egypt: Ancient Glory, Future Challenge.

(7 min.) 1998.

Producer: NMSU Agricultural Communications (copyright).

Shows Egypt's continued reliance

on the Nile River and the problems facing the nation as its population swells. Describes the efforts of the International Arid Lands Consortium to help.

VT: 1419

IALC: The Badia of Jordan. (8:48 min.) 1998.

Producer: NMSU Agricultural Communications (copyright).

Discover an ancient, stark desert full of human history and present-day challenge. Witness the efforts of scientists from Jordan's Higher Council for Science and Technology as they join forces with the International Arid Lands Consortium.

Their goal is to turn the arid Badia into a productive, habitable place

for future generations of Jordanians.

VT:1424

Horse Judging Parts 1 and 2. (1 hr. 41 min.) 1989.

Producer: AQHA (copyright).

Explains the benefits of competitive horse judging, especially to those who ride and show horses themselves. Sample halter, reining, Western pleasure and hunter under saddle classes are shown.

Donors honored by Chile Pepper Institute

Chile Pepper Institute members and other individuals who have made donations to the institute are being honored with decorated ceramic tiles.

The tiles, which include the donor's name and hometown, will be displayed at the New Mexico Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum in Las Cruces.

Donations of \$100 will be honored with 4-by-4 inch tiles, while \$500 donations will be honored with 6-by-6 inch tiles. The institute is a 501 C3 nonprofit organization.

For more information about the tiles, contact Danise Coon at (505) 646-3028.♣

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

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