

**WINTER 2007-2008**

**Department of  
Agricultural Economics  
and Agricultural  
Business  
and  
Extension Economics**

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# AgEcon "BEcon"



Dear Alumni, Students, Faculty and Staff:

It is a pleasure to continue being in touch with you through this newsletter. In it, you will find information on a variety of current events and achievements of our students and faculty. This newsletter's faculty spotlight features the work of Dr. Brian Hurd. Dr. Hurd has been in the faculty at NMSU for close to seven years, recently achieving the rank of Associate Professor with Tenure.

His research and teaching focus has been in the area of water resource economics, management and policy, and the effect of climate change on the availability of this scarce resource. Dr. Hurd's recent research on the potential impact of climate change on the water resource availability in the State of New Mexico, and its repercussions on the agricultural sector and overall economic activity, has received significant attention at the State and national levels.

Also, with sadness, I take advantage of this newsletter to let you know that I will be moving on from my position as Department Head at the end of this spring semester. I want to sincerely thank the students, alumni, faculty, staff, the higher College administration and all other College and University faculty members and administrators with whom I have had the pleasure to interact during my tenure as Department Head at NMSU. I deeply appreciate and have enjoyed the opportunity to serve in this capacity during the last five years.

Finally, as always, let me invite you to contribute to the **Alumni News** section of the next newsletter. Alumni, as well as faculty, staff, and graduate students are welcome to submit articles and photos on current events, including weddings, awards, recognition, births, etc. to Rosanne Lehman ([rosannel@nmsu.edu](mailto:rosannel@nmsu.edu)) or Sylvia Beuhler ([sbeuhler@nmsu.edu](mailto:sbeuhler@nmsu.edu)). We look forward to hearing from you!

Sincerely,

Octavio A. Ramirez  
Professor and Department Head

**Faculty Spotlight:**

**EXPLORING THE CROSSROADS OF WATER, SOCIETY AND ECONOMY**

by Dr. Brian Hurd



I would first like to acknowledge what a privilege it is to live and work in New Mexico with its beauty, diversity, artistry, and opportunities; to engage talented students in the pursuit of education and scientific discovery; and to serve the great land grant mission of the New Mexico State Aggies. There is no more exciting crossroads than New Mexico for addressing the real-world challenges where water, society, culture, and economy intersect.

A central theme running throughout my programs is my interest in the 'value' of water and in the many questions that underlie this seemingly simple concept. For example, why is water often held in high regard and treated differently than other natural resources? Why is water given this high regard and special consideration yet simultaneously offered at minimal prices? How do values vary across users, situations, timeframes, and purposes? How might these values change over time as population changes? As environmental conditions change? And as perceptions of future needs and future threats change? What are the goals that we share as a State, as communities, and as households for the current use, stewardship and conservation, and strategic management of water resources into the future? How can desires for economic growth be balanced with environmental and cultural values so closely attached to our New Mexico lands and waters?

The course I launched in the Spring of 2003, *Water Resource Management and Policy*, is an upper division, graduate course where I engage students in the breadth and immediacy of water issues in New Mexico, throughout the country and globally. Within this seminar-style course, students are challenged to read leading works in water resource management and are expected to actively participate and lead discussions. This is a writing-intensive course where students must organize their

## FACULTY SPOTLIGHT *contd.*

thinking, articulate and support their viewpoints, and develop concise and clear responses to essay questions.

Currently, my key interests and activities include assessing the effects of drought and climate change on water and agricultural systems and potential for adaptation; groundwater supplies and their long-run management; and urban water use and conservation programs. This past year my work focused on the first topic and on the potential economic effects of climate change on New Mexico's water resources. For this effort I worked closely with UNM hydrologist, Dr. Julie Coonrod, to develop a long-run look at water supply and use along the Rio Grande under different scenarios of climate and population change within the State. Among the key findings is a likely shift from snow to rain in the mountains resulting in less snow-pack. Additionally, warmer temperatures will bring about an earlier snowmelt and earlier peak runoff, as well as increased evaporation. Together, these effects combine to reduce total streamflows

throughout the Rio Grande Valley – even in the event that precipitation rates rise. My research indicates annual direct and indirect economic losses ranging between \$13 million and \$115 million by the year 2030 and from \$21 million to more than \$300 million by 2080. It's no surprise that rising populations in the face of shrinking surface water supplies will increase competition for water and will likely increase transfers from agricultural to urban uses and could alter the landscape and character of New Mexico if adjustments are not made.

My passion is to bring insight and creativity to the classroom and to my research efforts. The forging of technique, critical inquiry, and inspired creativity drives my approach to success in research and teaching. There are so many opportunities and important activities that I am pleased and honored to be a member of this faculty and community, and I look forward to a long productive career contributing to the future of this College, NMSU and the State of New Mexico.

## PRESENTATIONS

Dr. Connie Falk presented a 2 1/2 hour invited workshop "Community Supported Agriculture: Lessons from the OASIS Project" for the County Extension Office in Alamogordo in February. At the end of the month, she made a co-presentation at the New Mexico Organic Farming Conference in Albuquerque entitled "Development of a Root Crop Washing Station for Small Farmers" which was a collaborative effort by Dr. Falk and Dr. Craig Ricketts of NMSU Engineering Technology.

Dr. Jerry Hawkes presented a Distance Education program in Roy and Financial recordkeeping programs in Clayton, Carlsbad, Roswell, Mosquero and House, NM

Dr. James Libbin and Dr. Jerry Hawkes did a team presentation in Amman, Jordan on "Farm Management" for the Iraq Agricultural Extension Revitalization project. While in Jordan, Dr. Libbin also presented "Economics of Revegetation at TAL Rimah," at TAL-Rimah, Jordan.

Dr. Jay Lillywhite spoke to the New Mexico Horse Association at Sunland Park on the subject: "New Mexico Race Horse Industry: Economic Impacts."

He also presented "Economic Modeling of a Start-up Winery" at the 27th Annual Southwest Regional Vine & Wine Conference in Albuquerque.

Dr. Anil Rupasingha presented a paper at the Western Regional Science Association Annual Meeting in Hawaii in February. That paper was entitled: "Value-Added Agricultural Enterprises and County Economic Well-Being."

Dr. Rhonda Skaggs presented "Productivity of Water in Irrigated NM Pecan Production" at the USDA-CSREES National Water Conference in Reno, NV in early February. Later in the month, she presented "Rangeland and Management Interactions: Relationships Between Socio-Economic and Ecological Processes in Rangeland Landscapes" at the W-1192 Annual Meeting held in Kona, Hawaii.

Dr. Frank Ward presented "Efficient Conservation Measures in Irrigated Agriculture to Sustain Urban and Environmental Water Demands" at the Allied Social Science Associations 2008 Annual Convention in New Orleans, LA during the first week of January.



Dr. Jim Libbin speaking to the Iraq Extension Agents.



The Root Crop Washing Station for Small Farmers. This washing station was a collaborative research effort by Dr. Connie Falk and Dr. Craig Ricketts of Engineering Technology.

### NEW FACES AROUND AG ECON:

Margaret Hall joined the staff as Accounting Technician in January.

Dr. Paul O'Connell, Adjunct Professor, comes to us from Montgomery College in Maryland. Previously, he worked for the World Bank as a Rural Development Specialist and Trainer.

Dr. Bob Chambers from the University of Maryland is currently visiting the department while on sabbatical.

## NMSU TO START ENTREPRENEURSHIP PROGRAM

### *Sponsorships sought for high school summer camp*

New Mexico State University is looking to the business community to sponsor scholarships for its first ever Youth Entrepreneurship Summer (YES) Camp, which will start this year.

The six-week camp, offered by the Department of Agricultural Economics and Agricultural Business, provides high school students with the opportunity to explore their entrepreneurial interests while obtaining three credits toward their college education.

The program was developed by Michael Patrick, community resource and economic development specialist for the NMSU Cooperative Extension Service, who came to NMSU six months ago after successfully launching the YES Camp program in Laredo, Texas, 10 years ago.

"I was trying to figure out how to help kids in the community," Patrick said.

The program started with four students and one sponsor and Patrick said the program now has 15 sponsors and more than 200 students were eager to take the summer course.

Patrick is now looking for that same success in the Las Cruces community with NMSU's YES Camp.

"The chamber of commerce, the economic development organization and individual businesses sponsor the program," he said. "There's a natural connection with teaching entrepreneurship and trying to stimulate the local economy. Businesses identify with strengthening the entrepreneurial community, and they always welcome the opportunity to strengthen their businesses." The program's curriculum is designed so that students are in the classroom for 20 hours and are in the field for 25 hours. Throughout the program, students research the feasibility of a business idea of their choice and produce a business plan. At the end of the course, students present their business plans to a panel of business leaders in the community, and awards and honors are presented based on the best business plan.

## FACULTY RECOGNITIONS

The 2008 Allen Press Publishing Services Publishing Report for the Rangeland Ecology & Management cited Dr. Allen Torell's article with Dr. Kirk McDaniel (NMSU Range Science), "Wyoming Big Sagebrush Recovery and Understory Response with Tebuthiuron Control," as one of the top five articles for 2007.

Dr. Frank Ward was recently appointed the associate editor of the Journal of Hydrology.

Patrick said the course benefits all students, even if they don't start their own business down the line.

"It teaches them about critical thinking," he said. "It's taught in the context of business; but in this class, they have to build social and interpersonal skills.

"They learn to approach people, and they learn verbal skills when they make their (business plan) presentations."

Throughout the course, the students learn the fundamentals of entrepreneurship, including the characteristics of a successful entrepreneur, rewards and challenges, and the importance of entrepreneurs in the American economy.

"They also strengthen their basic math skills and can apply math to a setting they understand," Patrick said. "They learn about the tax system and what the government does with tax dollars. We cover a lot of territory."

"Businesses that get involved in the program also can have a hand in shaping a student's future," he added.

"It may make it possible for many high school students thinking about going to college, but who need a little financial help with their college expenses to do so, to enroll and start their college education," Patrick said. "They can claim that they directly had a hand in forming the student's character."

The cost of the program per student is \$750, which includes tuition and fees, books, educational materials and administrative costs. According to the program brochure, students pay \$75 and receive a \$675 scholarship to cover the balance of the program cost.

The first camp will be held May 28-July 2. Program contact: Patrick at [jmpat@nmsu.edu](mailto:jmpat@nmsu.edu).

*This article is reprinted from the January 25th 2008 Las Cruces Bulletin. By Natisha Hales*

Dr. Brian Hurd has been elected to serve on the Board of Directors of the Universities Council on Water Resources (UCOWR), a national organization that leads in education, research, and public service in water resources. Dr. Hurd will serve for a three year term.

Dr. Connie Falk is the advisor for a new club on campus: OASIS (Organization of Aggie Students Inspiring Sustainability.)



NMSU Community Resource and Economic Development Specialist Michael Patrick, center, talks with Las Cruces High School students about the Young Entrepreneurial Summer Camp program.

Las Cruces Bulletin photo

### YES

**You can make a difference!**

*Support the new entrepreneurship program.*

- Refer a student to Megan Shuller, 646-3289 or [mduff@nmsu.edu](mailto:mduff@nmsu.edu)
- Donate to the scholarship fund: online at <https://www.nmsu.edu/~giving/gift.htm> or send a check payable to NMSU Foundation for YES Camp to PO Box 3590, Las Cruces, NM 88001

## Iraq agriculture officials visit NMSU for Cooperative Extension training

Iraq Agricultural Extension officials visited New Mexico during November to learn how the United States' land-grant university Cooperative Extension Service programs operate.

"They came to develop an understanding of our Extension system. The two systems are total opposites, but they want to see how our system is implemented," said Egyptian native Hamdy Oushy, NMSU Extension specialist and Iraq Agricultural Extension training program coordinator, who helped write and presented the methodology curriculum by delivering it in Arabic to the participants.

The visitors began their training by visiting the Cooperative States Research, Education and Extension Services offices at the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Washington, D.C.

After arriving in Las Cruces, they participated in a week of classes on Extension methodology that included presentations from the various NMSU Extension departments. The visitors learned how the Extension system is divided into agriculture, home economics, 4-H youth, and community and economic development.

The Iraqi delegates were surprised that the Extension Service included consumer education, home management, family life, personal growth and development, and youth development. They stated that in Iraq, Extension is a branch of the Ministry of Agriculture and only addresses agriculture.

"They are also amazed that our system is driven from citizen advisory groups determining what the needs are in their community, county and region," said Jeff Bader, Bernalillo County Extension director who joined Oushy in writing and presenting the Extension methodology curriculum. "In their country, everything has been directed by the government down to the people. They are trying to learn how to turn that around."

During the on-campus presentations, the Iraqi delegates were introduced to all of the Extension departments and specialists who operate from the campus and toured the various agricultural research facilities.

"One of the goals of our work in that country is to develop cooperation between Iraq's agricultural colleges and governmental agricultural and Extension agencies," said Oushy. "Visiting NMSU allows them to see how Extension functions as an integral part of the College of Agriculture and Home Economics."

After the week on campus, the delegates visited NMSU Agricultural Science Centers in Las Cruces, Los Lunas and Alcalde, and toured farm operations

ranging from organic production in Española to an apple orchard in Nambe. They also visited a cattle ranch in the Estancia Valley, an Acoma sheep herding camp, and a dairy in Dona Ana County, as well as chile, pecan and cotton processing plants in Dona Ana County and the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District irrigation system.

During their stay in Las Cruces, the delegates met with NMSU President Michael Martin; Miley Gonzales, Secretary of the New Mexico Department of Agriculture; Lowell Catlett, Dean of the College of Agriculture and Home Economics; and Octavio Ramirez, Department Head of Agricultural Economics and Agricultural Business.

"We hope that this is the first of a series of training visits from select agriculturalists from a variety of countries to be sponsored by the Cochran Fellowship program" Ramirez said. "These types of programs provide a wonderful opportunity for them to learn from us, not only about technical, scientific and institutional issues, but in regard to the openness, tolerance and fairness of our society."

This project was funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Foreign Agriculture Service Cochran Fellowship Training program. Since 1984, the U.S. Congress has made funds available for training agriculturalists from middle income countries, emerging markets and emerging democracies.

Training opportunities are for senior- and mid-level specialists and administrators, from the public and private sectors, concerned with agricultural trade, agribusiness development, management, policy, marketing and technology transfer. All training occurs in the United States.

The Cochran Fellowship Program has provided U.S.-based, non-academic training for almost 7,600 international participants from 81 countries worldwide.

Through this and other programs and projects, USDA hopes to assist Iraq in developing strategies to rebuild and revitalize its agriculture and agribusiness sector, which will include an effective Extension Service based on education and research. Iraq's agricultural sector is the second largest contributor to the national economy and employs one-quarter of its workforce.

This article is reprinted from a December 17, 2007 University Communications News Release

By Jane Moorman



NMSU Extension specialist Hamdy Oushy explains the operation of an organic lettuce farm to visiting Iraq Agricultural Extension officials during their tour of New Mexico farms. The officials learned how U.S. land-grant university's Cooperative Extension Service programs operate during a USDA-FAS Cochran Fellowship Program training at NMSU. The delegates' faces in this photo have been blurred to protect their identities. (NMSU Photo by Jane Moorman)

## DEPARTMENTAL TRAVEL

Dr. Joel Diemer participated in the South Valley Initiative meetings in Albuquerque in December. He also traveled to Farmington for planning workshops for the NAPI/ASC farm and with the ASC in Farmington. In February, Dr. Diemer traveled to Syria and Jordan to conduct training sessions for the Iraq Extension Project.

Dr. Connie Falk took a group of students to the New Mexico Organic Farming Conference in Albuquerque at the end of February.

Dr. Rene Hadjigeorgalis attended the International Trade Research Consortium in Washington, DC in January and the USDA/CSREES National Water Conference in Reno, NV in February.

Dr. Jerry Hawkes traveled to Albuquerque in order to attend the Joint Stockman's Meeting, the Range Improvement Task Force Meetings, and the Northern District Extension Training. He also participated in the Eastern District Extension Training in Clayton, Carlsbad, and Roswell.

Dr. Hawkes and Dr. Jim Libbin traveled to Amman, Jordan for continued work on the IAER and Jordan Projects.

Dr. Jim Libbin attended the annual meetings of the American Society of Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers held in San Diego, CA in February. He serves on the Board of Directors for that society. In addition, Dr. Libbin is the Vice Chair of the Editorial Committee for the ASFMRA.

Dr. Michael Patrick participated in a South Valley Agricultural Initiative/Bernalillo County CES meeting in Albuquerque in December to discuss opportunities for establishing a small farm alternative enterprises assessment and training program. In January, he returned to Albuquerque for another meeting with the South Valley Ag Initiative and then went to Santa Fe to attend the 2008 New Mexico Economic Outlook Conference and the Rural Forum Planning Workshop. Dr. Patrick also met with the SBDC Director while in Santa Fe to secure financial support for community economic development training for county agents in addition to participating in the New Mexico Association of Counties Midwinter Conference.

Patrick Sullivan conducted mediations around the state on a variety of agricultural issues. In addition to his in-state mediation obligations, he recently conducted specialized mediations in Arizona for the Arizona State University Ag Mediation Program in Tempe, AZ.

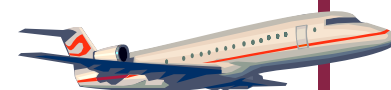
Dr. Octavio Ramirez attended the Southern Agricultural Economics Association Meeting in Dallas, TX in February.

Dr. Allen Torell attended the planning meeting at the NMSU Corona Range and Livestock Research Center in Corona, NM as well as the Society for Range Management meetings in Louisville, KY.



Dr. Frank Ward and Dr. Clyde Munster of Texas A&M University visit with a student about USDA National Needs PhD Fellowship opportunities offered by the Department of Biological and Agricultural Engineering at Texas A&M. This opportunity is for study in Agricultural Biosecurity, Sustainability, or Water Quality.

Dr. Munster was on campus meeting with students in February.



## GRADUATE SEMINARS

Creative Component: Nargiza Rakhimova Ludgate MBA-AG, Barnali Chaudhuri MBA, and Andrew Kach MBA presented their group business plan: "Bernalillo County/South Valley Landscape Resource Development Business Plan." (Nargiza's Advisor: Dr. Rhonda Skaggs)

## STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS and NEWS

Brandon Winchester presented "Designing a Water Market for the Lower Rio Grande Basin of New Mexico," at the USDA-CSREES National Water Conference in Reno, NV held in February.

Rosalia Sanchez Basualdo made a co-presentation with Dr. Ron Walser entitled "Fruits of the Vine and Cane" at the New Mexico Organic Farming Conference in Albuquerque.

Students graduating during the current semester can now fill out a Student Information Form online. This form gives Irma Marshall, our Student Records Tech a way to contact students after graduation and help her match employers and job seekers. That form can be found online at:

<http://cahe.nmsu.edu/academics/aeab/student-information-form.html>



Pro Ag threw a great holiday party and potluck at the end of the fall semester.

## ALUMNI NEWS & NOTES

**Kerrie Cox** (MAG 05) married Peter Romero on January 19, 2008.

**Dustin Venderley** (MS 06) married Anna Lynn Day on January 5, 2008.

Diego Angel Blandon was born on December 13, 2007 to **Sara Blandon** (MS 07).

Alumni are invited to update their information on the Alumni Information Form located online at the link listed above.



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CORNER OF COLLEGE AND KNOX

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## WINTER BIRTHDAYS

Prof. Van Bullock  
Dr. J. Michael Patrick  
Dr. Hamdy Oushy



## NEW PUBLICATIONS:

Goetz, S.J. and A. Rupasingha. (2007) "Determinants of Growth in County-Level Self-Employment Densities, 1990-2000." *Small Business Economics* DOI 10.1007/s11187-007-9079-5.

Shrestha, S.S., S.J. Goetz, and A. Rupasingha. (2007) "Proprietorship Formations and US Job Growth." *Review of Regional Studies* 37. pp 146 – 168.

## FAREWELL:

Dr. Rossana Alvarez-Diemer left the Department in December. We bid her a fond farewell and a debt of gratitude for the course in Food and Agricultural Issues she taught, the grad students she advised, and her involvement in Pro Ag.

Senaida Avalos, Accounting Tech, left to become manager at JoAnne Fabrics.

Dr. Serkan Gürlük completed his research time at NMSU and returned to Turkey on the first of February. He continues his work on water basin models at his home university, Uludag University in Bursa.

## FALL 2007 GRADUATES

### Undergraduates

Leo Christmas  
Brooke Conner  
Bethany Cooler  
Clarissa Cox  
Robert Gaffney  
Paul Darby Hibner  
Garrett Lucero  
Neal Morgan – Deans Award of Excellence  
Kerri Niles  
Justin Owen  
Francisco Rivera  
Angelina Romero  
Matt Stockton  
Christina Wilder

### Graduate Students

Sara Blandon - MS  
Mark Kimpel - MAg  
Subbu Murugan - MS  
Nargiza Rakhimova Ludgate – MBA Ag  
Jennifer Simonsen – MBA Ag - Deans Award of Excellence  
Yuxia Wang – MS  
Vera Wilson – MBA Ag

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

NAMA Golf Tournament - Saturday, March 8th. NMSU Golf Course. Shotgun start at 8:00 a.m. For more information contact: Shawna Mclain or Kiane Pound at 646-3004 (NMSU NAMA office)

The Spring 2008 Water Lecture Series will host the following speakers:

- Dr. David M. Merritt, Riparian Ecologist, U.S. Forest Service, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO. "The Success of Tamarix in Western American Rivers: Unraveling Myth and Science." Thursday, April 3. 3:00-4:30pm, Wooten Hall, Room 105.
- Buff Crosby, Senior Manager, Tennessee Valley Authority Watershed Operations, Chattanooga, TN. "TVA, 75 years of Successful River Management." Thursday, April 24th. 3:00-4:30pm. Wooten Hall, Room 105.

The OASIS club is planning a city wide event for Earth Day in Las Cruces on April 26th. For more information contact: Dr. Connie Falk at [cfalk@nmsu.edu](mailto:cfalk@nmsu.edu)

Alumni, faculty, staff, graduate and undergraduate students are invited to submit articles and photos for the newsletter. Please send your information to: [sbeuhler@nmsu.edu](mailto:sbeuhler@nmsu.edu).