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Above: Lindsay Thomen
Below: Traci Tuttle



Welcome Dr. Peter Skelton!

The Department of Agricultural and Extension Education is pleased to announce that Dr. Peter Skelton, Assistant Professor in the New Mexico Cooperative Extension Service, will be joining the department as a new faculty member on July 1, 2008. Peter has developed the Memorial Middle School Agricultural Science Center in Las Vegas, New Mexico. The five acre science center on the school's 34.4 acre campus was founded in 2005 through a special legisla-



tive appropriation to engage students in life science research and experiments, develop greenhouse and educational curricula for teachers throughout New Mexico and the country, and conduct community outreach addressing small scale agricultural resource constraints. In the planning phase are gardens and demonstration plots that will be used to evaluate the potential of specialty crops and resource conservation. Peter and Dr. Dormody will collaborate on grant writing and research to measure the impact of the program on student science and math achievement and to determine the feasibility of diffusing the program to other middle schools in New Mexico.

CAHE Ambassadors

This past year the department was proud to call two of the College of Agriculture and Home Economics Ambassadors their own. Lindsay Thomen, an Agriculture and Community Development major and Traci Tuttle, an Agricultural Communications major were representatives of our Department, the College, and the University throughout Fall 2007 and Spring 2008 semesters. The ambassadors are responsible for traveling to the state fairs and to high schools in order to recruit students for New Mexico State University. Congratulations on a job well done! We look forward to seeing our 2008-2009 Ambassadors at work as well. Congratulations to departmental majors Amanda Huddleston, Sara Petersen, and Lindsay Thomen on making the team for next year!

FFA: State Career Development Events

Recently, New Mexico FFA hosted the State Career Development Events (CDEs) at the College of Agriculture and Home Economics to give FFA members an opportunity to compete against each other in various events and to test their skills and abilities.

There were 80 of the 86 chapters from around New Mexico represented at this year's competition. Approximately 900 students attended in order to compete in several CDEs including:

- ◆ Landscape Design
- ◆ Livestock Evaluation
- ◆ Forestry
- ◆ Pasture and Range
- ◆ Floriculture
- ◆ Horse Evaluation
- ◆ Dairy Evaluation
- ◆ Agricultural Mechanics
- ◆ Agricultural Quiz and Skill Bowl



The AXED Department coordinated the Agricultural Mechanics and Agricultural Quiz and Skill Bowl CDEs. Overall, The State FFA CDEs are not all work; students also look forward to a dance and awards program. This year the Artesia Chapter won the Production Agriculture Sweepstakes and the Tucumcari Chapter won the Horticulture Sweepstakes.

Degree Transfers

The department has collaborated with other CAHE departments, the CAHE Academic Programs Office, and Alamogordo Community College on an Associate of Science in Agriculture degree. The degree transfers into both the Agricultural and Extension Education and the new Agriculture and Community Development majors in the department, as well as other majors in the college. In its first year, the ASA degree has 300 students enrolled at Alamogordo Community College. It will be exciting when they start to transfer into the college in Fall 2009 to complete a Bachelor's degree!



*Above: Production Agriculture Sweepstakes winners—Artesia
Below: Horticulture Sweepstakes winners—Tucumcari*



Departmental Advisory Committee



The Agricultural and Extension Education Department has created a departmental advisory committee to serve as an organized base for two-way communication between the program and its stakeholders in the areas of teaching, research, and Extension/outreach. The committee had its inaugural meeting on April 11.

Our charter members are:

- o Dr. Jeff Bader, County Program Director, Bernalillo County Cooperative Extension Service
- o Tom Bagwell, Deputy Director, New Mexico Department of Agriculture
- o Dr. Jon Boren, Professor and Interim Associate Dean/Associate Director, New Mexico Cooperative Extension Service (NMCES)
- o Doug Cometti, Agricultural Education Teacher, Hatch Valley High School
- o Edmund Gomez, Assistant Department Head, Rural Agricultural Improvement and Public Affairs Project, NMCES
- o Dalene Hodnett, Director, Ag in the Classroom, New Mexico Farm and Livestock Bureau
- o Rosie Lack, Lack Farms, Inc.
- o Wayne Moore, Agricultural Education Teacher, Animas High School
- o Mike O'Donnell, Building & Trades Instructor, Mesilla Valley Training Center, Las Cruces

Distance Education Courses

We have received \$50,450 from the College of Distance Education and Extended Learning for converting our distance education Master of Arts degree program to a 100% on-line delivery mode. We feel that once the degree is 100% on-line, it will be accessible to an even larger group of time- and place-bound professionals who need skills in teaching youth and adults; planning, delivering, and evaluating Extension and outreach programs; leadership and communications; research and measurement; and domestic and international development. We are involving part-time faculty like Dalene Hodnett with Ag in the Classroom, and Dr. Linda Schultz and Dr. Frank Hodnett with 4-H Youth Development in teaching courses as part of this initiative.



Mission Statement

Preparing and supporting educators and leaders in agriculture to improve the economic well-being and quality of life of all stakeholders.

New Mexico State University

Gerald Thomas Hall, Rm 111
Las Cruces, NM 88003

Phone: 575-646-4511

Fax: 575-646-4082

E-mail: rthomen@nmsu.edu



Congratulations Graduates!!!

Bachelor of Science in Agriculture Major: Agricultural & Extension Education

Bernadine Booky
Deans Award of Excellence

Amos Corrales

Ginger Doherty
Honors and Crimson Scholar

Joshua Keele
Crimson Scholar Summer Graduate

Greg Rystad

Brian Samson
Summer Graduate

Master of Arts in Agricultural and Extension Education

Katrina Beebe
Summer Graduate

Traci Bridge

Megan Conner
Summer Graduate

David Langley
Deans Award of Excellence for Graduate Students

Kelli Younker

The Agricultural and Extension Education Department would like to congratulate each of these individuals on their achievements. These students will be graduating May 10th, 2008.

Once again, congratulations on a job well done!

