

Homecoming on the horizon

Students and alumni in New Mexico State University's College of Agriculture and Home Economics (CAHE) can participate in many activities during Homecoming 2008.

This year, Homecoming will be held Oct. 26 through Nov. 2. The theme is "Rockin' with Aggie Pride," celebrating school spirit and the university.

"Homecoming events bring back our alumni from all parts of the country to socialize with former classmates, visit their departments and see the progress the college has made. It is a time to reflect on the past and the future," said Elizabeth Rios-Crabb, assistant to the dean.

On Oct. 30, each department will compete in a door-decorating contest by ornamenting its office door according to the Homecoming theme. Prizes will be given for the best door and an honorable mention. A pumpkin carving contest also will be held, because Halloween occurs during Homecoming week this year. Awards will be given for the funniest and scariest pumpkins, along with an honorable mention.

CAHE will host a Homecoming Recognition Breakfast Oct. 31 at 8 a.m. by the windmill in front of Gerald Thomas Hall. The breakfast is held to recognize and honor distinguished alumni, scholarship donors and scholarship recipients. Awards also will be presented for the door-decorating and pumpkin carving contests.

"The breakfast is a way to say 'thank you' and honor our alumni and donors for their contributions to the students, college and NMSU. The alumni and donors make it possible for students to come to school and to continue their education. They are extremely important to our future progress," Rios-Crabb said.

To RSVP for the breakfast, visit the college alumni Web site at <http://cahe.nmsu.edu/alumni>.

The Alumni Association will hold a Distinguished Alumni Dinner on Oct. 31 from 5 to 7 p.m. in the Corbett Center Ballrooms. Distinguished alumni from all colleges will be recognized during the dinner.

The College of Agriculture and Home Economics Alumni and Friends Chapter will host the third annual Cowboy Dance on the evening of Oct. 31 at the New Mexico Farm and Ranch Heritage

Museum. The dance was planned by the Alumni Events Committee. Spur Ride will provide the music.

The Homecoming Parade will be held at 10 a.m. Nov. 1.

The final Homecoming event will be the football game at 5 p.m. Nov. 1 at Aggie Memorial Stadium, where NMSU will face Boise State.

The classes of 1948, 1958 and 1968 will hold reunions this year. Any school-affiliated group also is encouraged to hold a reunion.

For more information, contact the College of Agriculture and Home Economics at (575) 646-1807 or the NMSU Alumni Association at (866) 678-2586.

Margaret Kovar



2007 Homecoming Bonfire.

DARREN PHILLIPS



COURTESY PHOTO

CAHE alumni and friends register at the 2007 Homecoming Recognition Breakfast.

A message from the dean

We are embarking on the fall semester at NMSU with a lot of familiar faces in new roles for the College of Agriculture and Home Economics. Jim Libbin, well-known in our classrooms and in our communities for the past 25 years, will be leading our Academic Programs as interim associate dean. Jon Boren, a respected wildlife specialist, serves in the interim associate dean role for the Cooperative Extension Service and Terry Crawford is heading up our department of Agricultural Economics and Agricultural Business.



Catlett

Tom Dormody is stepping down as department head of Agricultural and Extension

Education. Cynda Clary will be the new interim head of the Agricultural and Extension Education Department after taking leave from the college to serve temporarily the past few years in the Provost's office to help them through the accreditation process. Finally, Barbara Wise, our college development officer, has taken a position with the NMSU Foundation, necessitating a nationwide search for a new college development officer this fall.

All of us may be working in a college with a new name soon, as the NMSU Faculty Senate will consider recommending the college name be changed to the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences.

One thing, however, will never change – our commitment to serve our students and other constituents in the State of New Mexico. We plan to only deepen that commitment with every passing day.

I look forward to seeing all of you at our Homecoming Recognition Breakfast Oct. 31.

Dean Lowell B. Catlett

New leaders excited about opportunity to serve college

The College of Agriculture and Home Economics has seen some leadership changes in 2008, but all are familiar faces who are eager to see the college move forward.

Jim Libbin is serving as interim assistant dean and director of academic programs.

“This is an exciting new opportunity for me. When the former associate dean and the dean asked me to serve, I could only say ‘yes,’” Libbin said.

Libbin said he will focus on increasing the attractiveness of the college as a place to study and work.

Jon Boren, who is serving as the interim assistant dean and director of the Cooperative Extension Service, said he will focus on the “long tradition of helping the citizens of New Mexico use research-based knowledge to improve the quality of their lives.”

“The NMSU Cooperative Extension Service is the envy of many states and I am excited about our future opportunities,” Boren said. “Our programs must continue to reflect emerging concerns of both rural and urban stakeholders.”

Terry Crawford is serving as the

interim department head for the Department of Agricultural Economics and Agricultural Business.

Crawford said he will focus on recruiting new faculty, integrating departments that were recently combined and launching a new joint doctoral program with the economics department in the College of Business.

“I see this opportunity as a chance to serve the faculty and move them in a direction to increase their influence for the improvement of New Mexico agriculture,” Crawford said.

Cynda Clary is serving as the interim department head for the Department of Agricultural and Extension Education.

“This is a great opportunity to work with people I respect and to make a positive difference in the lives of students,” Clary said.

Clary will focus on strengthening relationships with constituent groups, incorporating additional student development and student success principles into the department's programs, and exploring other opportunities for department growth.

Julie M. Hughes



CAHE Leaders, from left, Jim Libbin, Jon Boren, Cynda Clary and Terry Crawford.

Researchers battling difficult agricultural pest

The world's worst weed and plant-parasitic nematode, which greatly hinder the growth and yield of successful crops, might have met their match with a variety of alfalfa.

Researchers at New Mexico State University have been looking into ways to manage a severe and difficult-to-manage agricultural pest complex in vegetable crop systems, such as chile and onion, in a project titled: "Root-Knot Nematode Resistant Alfalfa for Suppression of the Yellow and Purple Nutsedge and Root-Knot Nematode Complex."

Jill Schroeder, a professor in the Department of Entomology, Plant Pathology and Weed Science (EPPWS), said the idea started in 1997 with the help of Ian Ray, an alfalfa breeder and geneticist in the Department of Plant and Environmental Sciences, who knew of alfalfa varieties from California that are resistant to the microscopic worms that attack a plant's roots and compete with

weeds that choke out a crop system.

"Purple nutsedge is known as the world's worst weed," Schroeder said. "It has a huge underground system of roots and rhizomes that compete for space and nutrients (of crops)."

Unfortunately, the weed is only beneficial to one thing, the root-knot nematode, which can hide itself inside the weed's tubers for protection and where it can live to re-infest crops at the next growing season.

However, the researchers have been working with a variety of alfalfa, known as Magna 8, which is resistant to both the nematode and the nutsedge in question.

"The neat thing about this alfalfa is that it doesn't go dormant in winter so it reduces the growth of the nutsedge," Schroeder said.

The researchers started a cycle of planting plots of alfalfa and cotton in a weed and nematode infested field and let them grow for three years. In the

fourth year, they planted chile. What they found, Schroeder said, is that the fields that contained the alfalfa did not need fumigation and had twice as much chile yield as the field grown with cotton and fumigated.

Schroeder said though that through the project, they learned they need to let the alfalfa grow for three years before introducing the vegetable crop, in order to make the suppression successful. This timeframe might not be conducive, though, for a grower's needs.

Now, the researchers are finishing a three-year field study to further analyze the suppression of the nematode and the nutsedge in chile pepper and cotton crops. Crop plots will be treated for nutsedge suppression and other plots will not be treated to determine if an herbicide will extend the benefit of the alfalfa rotation by delaying the re-establishment of the pest complex.

Audry Olmsted

CAHE part of emergency preparedness

New Mexico is one of the best-prepared states for an agriculture emergency thanks to the efforts of the Southwest Border Food Safety and Defense Center located in the College of Agriculture and Home Economics.

Whether the agriculture emergency is caused by natural disasters, disease or humans, the state's emergency response community is ready. This preparedness is the result of the awareness and preparedness training provided by Billy Dictson and Jeff Witte, co-directors of the Southwest Border Food Safety and Defense Center (SWBFSDC).

"Most states don't have a focus point like our center to coordinate the awareness and response training," Dictson said. "They have various people doing things, but not one focus group pulling it all together."

In New Mexico that focus group is the unique partnership between the

Cooperative Extension Service, the New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA) and the New Mexico Department of Homeland Security. The state's homeland security department provides the federal funding, while NMDA buys the necessary equipment and NMSU provides the educational component.

Through the food safety and defense center, these agencies have been working for nearly three years to raise the awareness of New Mexicans about agriculture and food safety, especially from terrorist-transmitted disease.

Two response teams have been established, the New Mexico Agriculture Livestock Response Team, consisting of 25 large animal veterinarians and the Avian Influenza Response Team, consisting of personnel from the Extension Service, NMDA, livestock board, New

Mexico Game and Fish and New Mexico Department of Health in four regions of the state. Emergency response trailers and personal duffle bag kits have been created to support these teams.

This summer a big push was made to inform the general public.

"We have prepared 28,000 emergency response kits and trained 54,000 people in the last four months," Dictson said of the center's spring/summer 2008 campaign.

The general public received home preparedness kits at county fairs, while about 4,000 4-H and FFA livestock exhibitors received response kits and all 4-H agents and vocational agriculture teachers received livestock response kits. This fall 172 dairy farms in New Mexico will receive vulnerability assessments to become bio-secure dairies and best-practice dairies.

Jane Moorman

Students serving CAHE

Being a part of the College of Agriculture and Home Economics is a worthy distinction. It's a tight-knit and dynamic group of people who have a passion for agriculture. The college has a group of undergraduate students who hold that passion and share in its distinction. The CAHE Student Ambassadors are a team of highly motivated and talented students representing all majors of the college.



Nelson

I am honored to call myself an ambassador and serve the college for another year. The ambassador team serves as the student face for the college. We represent the institution and the university whenever the dean or president asks us. We also serve a vital

recruitment function connecting with high school students on behalf of the college.

This year, the ambassador team has 18 members. During the fall semester, the team will be heading out to the state's many fairs in an effort to reach new students. The team will attend Expo New Mexico, the Eastern New Mexico State Fair and the Southern New Mexico State Fair. After our recruiting, we will take a whole week and have our Senior-Call-A-Thon. The ambassadors call high school seniors across the state (and sometimes the nation) to answer any questions about university life and remind them of important deadlines.

The team also will help with the Homecoming festivities. We assist at the Scholarship Donor Breakfast and work at the Homecoming Dance. Throughout the semester, the ambassadors will give college tours to area students to show them what the college is all about.

We have a lot to work on this semester – we hope to see you around!

Morgan Nelson
CAHE 2008-09 Ambassador

Rodeo team claims four titles

The New Mexico State University rodeo team brought home four national champions after the completion of the College National Finals Rodeo (CNFR) in June in Casper, Wyo.

Many team members also placed in the top 20, and the women's team placed second in the nation overall. The men's team placed in the top 15.

"I can't tell you how happy and proud I am of what these fine young rodeo athletes have accomplished. To have four students from NMSU win national titles in one year is a phenomenal experience. These and all of our student rodeo athletes at NMSU have worked very hard to get this far and they deserve every bit of their success," said Jim Dewey Brown, NMSU rodeo coach.

Bailey Gow, of Roseburg, Ore., won first place in the barrel racing event. She also placed 20th in breakaway roping, giving her enough points to receive fourth place in the women's all-around.

Gow's horse, April's Honor, won the women's American Quarter Horse Association Horse of the Year Award.

Megan Corey Albrecht, of Bremerton, Wash., won first in the goat

tying event.

Horse Springs, N.M., native Johnny Salvo received first in the tie-down roping. Salvo also placed second in the men's rookie standings.

Wyatt Althoff, of Gilbert, Ariz., won the all-around cowboy honor by placing in two events. He placed third in the tie-down roping event and fifth in the team roping, heeling for partner Matt Garza, of Mesquite, N.M.

Kelsi Elkins, of Aztec, N.M., received 12th place in the barrel racing.

In the goat tying event, Brittany Striegel, also of Aztec, N.M., placed sixth.

Tanner Robinson, of Mesilla Park, N.M. placed 14th in the steer wrestling.

Header Tony Steele, of Alamo, Nev., and heeler Aaron Moyers, of Moriarty, N.M., placed 14th in the team roping.

"No team in the history of the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association (NIRA) has won four national event titles at the CNFR. It lays the groundwork for another great year for NMSU Rodeo," said Frank DuBois, former secretary/director of the New Mexico Department of Agriculture and longtime NMSU rodeo team supporter.

Margaret Kovar



Members of the New Mexico State University Rodeo Team who placed at the College National Finals Rodeo (CNFR) are, from left, Johnny Salvo, of Horse Springs, N.M., Megan Corey Albrecht, of Bremerton, Wash., NMSU rodeo coach Jim Dewey Brown, Bailey Gow, of Roseburg, Ore., Kelsi Elkins, of Aztec, N.M., Brittany Striegel of Aztec, N.M., and Wyatt Althoff of Gilbert, Ariz.

NMSU holds summer camp for entrepreneurs

This summer, the New Mexico State University College of Agriculture and Home Economics (CAHE) and the Cooperative Extension Service offered high school students the opportunity to receive leadership and business training through a new program.

The Youth Entrepreneurship Summer (YES) Camp was a three-credit college course held for high school students interested in learning about entrepreneurship. The program was held May 29-July 2. All of the students who participated this year are graduates of Las Cruces high schools and currently are NMSU freshmen.

The cost per student in the program was \$750, which included tuition and fees, books, educational materials and other costs. However, CAHE provided students with a \$675 scholarship to cover most of the cost. Numerous Las Cruces businesses contributed money for the scholarships.

During the camp, students created a business plan and researched its economic feasibility. They not only worked during classroom hours, but had out of class assignments every day. The students then presented their plans to a panel of bankers, who decided which plan was best.

Leslie Rupe, 18, and her partner Alejandro Chavez, 18, won first place with the plan for their landscape design and installation business, Divine Exteriors.

Gilbert Orosco, 18, received second place for his plan for Chord A, a music shop catering to band students.

Third place went to Desiree Holguin, 18, for her clothing boutique, Happily Ever After.

Marcos Guzman, 18, received honorable mention for his business, A Helping Hand, along with classmates Amanda O'Brien, 17, and Nicole Casillas, 17, for their business Royal Fitness.

The first place winners received \$150 each; second place, \$75 each; third place, \$50 each; and honorable mentions received \$35 each. The money was put directly into each student's university account.

"The course was not just about business plans. Students also learned about the economy, and gained leadership

and public speaking skills," said Michael Patrick, YES Camp instructor and community resource and economic

development specialist for the Cooperative Extension Service.

Margaret Kovar



The Youth Entrepreneurship Summer Camp participants are, back row from left, Nicole Casillas, Gilbert Orosco, Desiree Holguin, instructor Michael Patrick and Marcos Guzman and, front row from left, Amanda O'Brien, Leslie Rupe and Alejandro Chavez.

CAHE student has diverse interests

A freshman in New Mexico State University's College of Agriculture and Home Economics, Gilbert Orosco, has diverse interests, stretching from business and economics to animal science.

Orosco is in the pre-veterinary program in the Animal and Range Sciences Department. After graduating from NMSU, he would like to attend a veterinary medicine school.

This summer, he participated in the Cooperative Extension Service's Youth Entrepreneurship Summer (YES) Camp, where he placed second in the business plan competition. He received an award of \$75 for his business Chord A, a music shop catering to band students. The money was placed in his university account, to be used toward expenses such as books and tuition.

Orosco also participated in the New Mexico Alliance for Minority Participation (AMP) program this summer, helping animal nutritionists research the use of ethanol by-products as a feed for animals.

With the knowledge gained from school and the YES Camp, Orosco says he would like to open his own veterinary medicine practice one day.

"I'm interested in opening my own practice, but I know it will be hard. I've learned that just because you start a business, it doesn't mean that you will make money or that the business will succeed," he said.

Orosco also said he has been enjoying his experience at NMSU so far and is excited to see everything the university and the college have to offer.

Margaret Kovar

Share your CAHE memories

The time has once again arrived to remember the great memories shared at New Mexico State University's College of Agriculture and Home Economics. For me personally, it's the memories of cheering on the Aggies during a big rivalry game, meeting friends in the Gerald Thomas lobby between classes and the anxiety of potentially seeing my now husband walking around campus. Each of us will share our own memories of our beloved time at NMSU, and what better place to celebrate those memories than at Homecoming 2008.

The College of Agriculture and Home Economics Alumni and Friends Chapter will provide the perfect venue for reuniting with old friends and connecting with new ones at the Cowboy Dance scheduled for Oct. 31. This evening of county music and dancing is sure to bring back the exciting memories of your college days. I hope you can participate in this annual event along with many others the college has planned for you.

While visiting the campus for Homecoming, please take the time to learn more about the CAHE Alumni and Friends Chapter. Participation is open to all and the only requirement is to join the NMSU Alumni Association. For the fall, the chapter will assist with Homecoming events and also has a Habitat for Humanity project scheduled for November. All alumni are welcome to participate and please be watching for more information on these upcoming events.

For more information on the Cowboy Dance, chapter membership or to simply share your favorite memory, please contact the alumni and friends chapter at ssway@nmsu.edu or (575) 646-1807.

*Julie Bostick Montgomery
CAHE Alumni and Friends Chapter President*

Alumnus honored with the Exemplar Award

Richard C. Johnson was honored with the Sam Steel Exemplar Award for his contributions to his community, the Cooperative Extension Service and the U.S. Forest Service.

Johnson graduated from New Mexico State University (then known as New Mexico College of Agriculture & Mechanic Arts) in 1936 with a degree in animal husbandry. He was a distinguished ROTC graduate commissioned as a second lieutenant at the age of 21. After graduation, he served with the New Mexico Cooperative Extension Service, first as a 4-H club advisor in Doña Ana County and then as an assistant county agent in Roosevelt County.

During World War II, from February 1942 to December 1945, Johnson was on active duty with the U.S. Army. He served with distinction and was awarded the Bronze Star in Italy.

He also worked for the U.S. Forest

Service, serving on several national forests in Arizona and New Mexico and the Range Management Division of the regional Forest Office in Albuquerque.

Johnson has been active in the Society for Range Management, the American Forestry Association, the New Mexico Wildlife Federation, the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion. He also has served on several civic and community organizations.

Margaret Kovar



Richard C. Johnson, center, receives Exemplar Award.

COURTESY PHOTO

CAHE Homecoming 2008

Thursday, Oct. 30

2 p.m. Door Decorating Contest Gerald Thomas, Knox, Skeen and Neale halls

7 p.m. Bonfire & Pep Rally, Fireworks South of Aggie Memorial Stadium

Friday, Oct. 31

All Day..... Crimson Day

8 a.m..... Homecoming Recognition Breakfast Tent by Gerald Thomas Hall

10 a.m..... Alumni Flower Judging Contest..... Skeen Hall Rotunda

8 p.m. Cowboy Dance Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum Hosted by CAHE Alumni and Friends Chapter Music by Spur Ride

Saturday, Nov. 1

10 a.m. Homecoming Parade University Avenue CAHE Distinguished Alumni will be in the parade.

5 p.m. NMSU Aggie Football Game..... Aggie Memorial Stadium NMSU vs. Boise State

Alumna trained well at CAHE

Alumna Buff Crosby said she received the diverse education and in-depth training needed to perform her job well while attending the New Mexico State University College of Agriculture and Home Economics.

Crosby is the senior manager for environmental stewardship for the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA). She manages 293,000 acres of public land and 11,000 miles of shoreline along the Tennessee River and is responsible for protecting threatened and endangered species, managing more than 100 recreation facilities and improving water quality. She oversees 120 employees located at nine field offices known as watershed teams.

Crosby grew up in Texhoma, Okla., on a family-owned cattle operation. She received a bachelor's degree in agricultural business in economics from West Texas State University. She then came to NMSU and received her master's in agricultural biology and a doctorate in medical/veteri-

nary entomology, working with professors Grant Kinzer and Ronnie Byford.

"The interdisciplinary exposure I received while in the Entomology, Plant Pathology and Weed Science Department was tremendously helpful. I learned everything from entomology and weed science to biochemistry," Crosby said. "In my job today, I have to balance recreation opportunities and economics, and the program gave me the background I need to achieve that balance."

Crosby started out at TVA working in the medical entomology field, but then moved into water quality and management along the Tennessee River. Although her main office is in Chattanooga, Tenn., she does plenty of field work, and offices are scattered throughout the river valley. But



Buff Crosby spoke to a group of students at Gerald Thomas Hall this spring.

DARREN PHILLIPS

even though she often travels and works long hours, Crosby does not mind.

"Knowing I'm making a difference makes this job worthwhile," she said.

In her spare time, Crosby's hobbies include golfing and gardening. She also enjoys team roping with her father when she visits her family in Texhoma.

Margaret Kovar

County College educating government officials

Continuing education and professional development is the goal of County College, a collaboration between New Mexico State University's Cooperative Extension Service, NMSU's Department of Government and the New Mexico Association of Counties (NMAC).

The goal of the program, said Terry Canup, coordinator of County College, is to create "better government through education." It is an opportunity, he said, to have more informed county officials and employees.

Through the program, participants have been working toward Certified Public Officer (CPO) designation since 2004. To graduate as a CPO, the participant must complete 36 hours of core courses and 18 hours of affiliate courses. Participants take courses that include management, leadership and personnel human resources as well as financial, communication and technical courses. The curriculum includes

everything from time management and effective hiring strategies to problem solving and budgeting. Participants earn 0.3 continuing education units for every three-hour course they complete.

This year, the Department of Government's Diane Prindeville introduced the nationally accredited Certified Public Management (CPM) Program to County College. To enroll in the CPM program, a person must have completed the CPO program, or have completed an appropriate amount of higher education and supervisory experience. The CPM designation requires attending classes, doing homework and completing a capstone project.

Besides earning the designation of CPM, participants in the program have an opportunity to earn college credit from the university's Department of Government and also are eligible to become fellows of the American Academy of Certified Public Managers.

The hope, Canup said, is that many County College students will be motivated to go on to obtain undergraduate or graduate degrees in a related field.

Since its start in 2004, more than 400 people have taken County College classes, Canup said.

Canup said that part of their goals for County College is to expand it to include an Executive Development Program in the future.

Canup said County College is working with NMAC affiliates to meet their special education and certification needs. The 21 NMAC affiliate groups include assessors, treasurers, attorneys, clerks, commissioners, risk managers, sheriffs and those who work in fire and emergency management, and health care.

He said they are also looking into developing more distance education opportunities for participants.

Audry Olmsted

Funding for new facility on November ballot

The New Mexico Legislature has provided a historic level of funding in the 2008 General Obligation Bond for higher education. The GO Bond will provide New Mexico State University campuses statewide with nearly \$33 million for numerous projects, including \$2.4 million for the planning of a state-of-the-art Agriculture Center for Research, Education and Service for the New Mexico Department of Agriculture to be located at the Las Cruces campus.

The new center would replace 29,000 square feet of inadequate space currently devoted to supporting the agricultural industry.

Without modern services and service programs, current information and technologies are not accessible by farmers,

dairy operators, veterinarians, livestock producers, nurseries and others engaged in agricultural enterprises. The new center would not only provide essential modern services to help meet the growing demands on the agriculture industry, but it would strengthen education and research activities linked to those services.

The proposed center would be 45,000 square feet and be located adjacent to the existing four agricultural sciences buildings of NMSU and the USDA Agricultural Research Service. New diagnostic facilities would occupy most of the building.

NMSU projects can be found in Ballot C and Ballot D during the November general election.

Scott Southward



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