

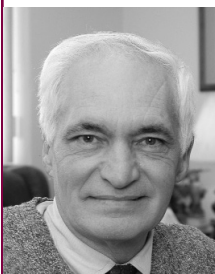
The Leading Object

NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY'S COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND HOME ECONOMICS

JANUARY 2006

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Dean's search aborted; Catlett and Gutierrez in interim posts



Catlett

aborted, said Provost William Flores in

The nine-month-long search for the unified position of dean of the College of Agriculture and Home Economics and vice provost for outreach services, was

a Jan. 11 memorandum. Flores said Lowell Catlett agreed to continue to serve as interim dean of the college for another year. Catlett has served as interim dean since Nov. 1, 2005. Flores appointed Paul Gutierrez, associate dean for Extension, as interim vice provost for outreach services "to expand Extension to the university as a whole as part of our

efforts to take NMSU statewide."

The vice provost role was to be added to the new dean's duties for the first time, and the role was in the posting for the dean and vice provost position last year.



Gutierrez

O'Connell Regents' professor, Libbin Rousch winner



Mary O'Connell, professor of plant and environmental science, was awarded a Regents' professorship and **James Libbin**, professor of agricultural economics and agricultur-

al business, won a Donald C. Rousch Excellence in Teaching Award at the Jan. 18 university convocation.

O'Connell, an NMSU faculty member since 1985, was winner of the College of Agriculture and Home Economics' Distinguished Research Award in 1997. She runs a molecular biology laboratory and has been instrumental in attracting millions of dollars in research and service grants and

has been a major proponent of developing minority scientists through student-oriented programs.

She directs the Medicinal Plants of the Southwest Project and Building Minority Research Capacity Project. She directed the Minority High School Student Program and is a mentor for the Bridges to Native Americans and Minority Access to Careers projects. She was outreach coordinator for the National Biotechnology Information Facility.

Libbin, an NMSU faculty member since 1979, won the Teaching Award of Merit from the National Association of College Teacher of Agriculture in 1989. He is winner of the Gold Quill Award, Silver Plow Award and Honorary New Mexico Farmer Award.

Students beautify Tournament of Roses



New Mexico first lady Barbara Richardson held a bouquet designed by NMSU students on the state float in the Rose Parade

in Pasadena, Calif. on Jan. 2. Floriculture students also designed a centerpiece that was in the foyer for the governor's reception in Pasadena.

Sabine Green, floriculture coordinator, said that the state Department of Tourism requested the arrangements to be made by students with New Mexico grown products. In addition to flowers from an Animas-based greenhouse, chile peppers and cotton bolls were part of the designs.

Livestock judging team finishes well

NMSU's livestock judging team ended its season with a third-place finish at the North American International Livestock Exposition in Louisville, Ky.

Logan MacLennan led the team, placing fifth individually and finishing first in the sheep category, sixth in reasons and sixth in cattle in the Nov. 14 competition. **Johnathan Walsh** placed in the top 10 in the cattle, sheep and reasons categories for an eighth high individual

placing. **Mike Horvath** and **Morgan McConnaughey** both ranked in the top 10 in cattle.

"This group did a great job for the program and we are looking forward to the future successes of the livestock team," said **Clay Elliott**, judging program coordinator.

The team won its first title of the season last fall at the Express Ranch Cattle Judging in Yukon, Okla. NMSU followed up with first place finishes in Denver

and Dallas, a second place at Phoenix, third at San Antonio and fourth at Houston.

The 2004-05 livestock team is coached by **Darick Chabot**. Team members are Walsh from Torreon; **Jared Long**, Great Falls, Mont.; MacLennan, Byers, Colo.; **Jenae Antonick**, Sahuarita, Ariz.; Horvath, Hesperus, Colo.; and McConnaughey, Riverton, Wyo.

NMSU Horse Judging Team Posts Wins

New Mexico State University's horse judging team racked up awards and scholarships at two national competitions this fall.

"I am pleased with both performances," said **Jason Turner**, coach and Animal and Range Sciences assistant professor.

"One of the biggest challenges we faced was having a small team, and it took a lot of focus from everyone to stay headed in the right direction."

NMSU was the reserve national champion team at the Grand National and World Championship Morgan Horse Show Association Collegiate Judging Contest in Oklahoma City, Okla., placing second in the performance and reasons categories and third in halter.

Each NMSU team member ranked among the top 10 individu-

als in the contest.

Justin Smith of Grants placed second in halter and reasons, and was the individual reserve national champion. **T.J. Arellano** of Silver City was seventh overall, and **Kali Benson** of Rio Rancho finished ninth.

At the U.S. National Arabian and Half-Arabian Championship Horse Show Collegiate Horse Judging Contest in Albuquerque, Arellano took home national champion individual honors in the overall and performance categories. Benson followed with a second place in performance.



From left, T.J. Arellano of Silver City, Justin Smith of Grants, Kali Benson of Rio Rancho, and coach Jason Turner.

A meeting for new members of the judging team is scheduled in January. College students interested in participating on the horse team should contact Turner at (505) 646-1242 or by e-mail at jlturner@nmsu.edu.

Branum takes over Hidalgo Extension office



Kevin Branum assumed program director duties for the Hidalgo County Extension Office on Dec. 16. The former New Mexico State 4-H

vice president earned bachelor's and master's degrees in agricultural biology from NMSU in 2003 and 2005, respectively. As a student, he was president of the College of Agriculture and Home Economics Council, an active member of the livestock and wool judging teams, and an officer in

the Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity.

As a graduate student he took first place in oral presentations at the competitions of the Western Society of Weed Science and NMSU Graduate Research and Arts Symposium.

Duffey retires after 33-year NMSU Extension career



James Duffey is retiring at the end of January, after a 33-year career as an NMSU Extension agent. Duffey was known as the dean of county 4-H agents for a 25-year stint as a 4-H agent

before taking over program director duties in Chaves County in 1998. He started as a 4-H agent in Quay County in 1973, moving to Chaves County three years later.

He earned an FFA Honorary State Farmer Degree 1987, Distinguished Service Award from both the National Association of County Agricultural Agents and

National 4-H Agents Association in 1988, and the Mid-Career Award from Epsilon Sigma Phi in 1992. He was the College of Agriculture and Home Economics' 1996 Distinguished Extension award winner.

He is past president of the New Mexico Agricultural Agents Association.

4-H Hall of Famers inducted



Best

Twenty-three 4-H leaders and supporters were inducted into the state 4-H Hall of Fame Dec. 13 in a ceremony at Gerald Thomas Hall auditorium.

The 2005 inductees were **Joy Best** of Elida, Martha Bond of Carrizozo, Frances Chambliss of Portales, Donald and Cooky Dean of Carlsbad, Sue Decker of La Plata, **Bobby Ann Dictson** of Las Cruces, Cathy Jacobs of La Plata,



Dictson



Liesners

Robert and Elizabeth Johnson of San Ysidro, Bob and Corky Kasten of Bayard, **Dan and Mary Liesner** of Las Cruces, Ray and Joyce Litherland of Las Vegas, John and Lilly Pritchard of Albuquerque, Jesse and Ann Rayroux of Carlsbad, Deanna Brady Thornton of Alamogordo, and Gene and Barbara Thornton of Lamy.

An unveiling of new nameplates on the hall of fame plaque in the Gerald Thomas Hall foyer followed the ceremony. The hall of fame, established in 2002, honors 4-H members, volunteer leaders, fair superintendents, advisory board members, 4-H Foundation

trustees and former faculty with NMSU's Cooperative Extension Service, which administers 4-H statewide. Four inductees were former employees of the college. Best was the Extension home economist in Roosevelt County for 20 years. Dan Liesner of Doña Ana County served as county program director and Extension agent in Lincoln, Otero and Eddy counties and later became the Southeast District Extension director. Mary Liesner, served as a program director in the college Academic Programs Office. Dictson was a project coordinator for Extension.

Ag Economics and Ag Business recognized by Teaching Academy



Agricultural Economics and Agricultural Business was recognized by the NMSU Teaching Academy as a distinguished departmental member for

2004-2005. Faculty member **Ereny Hadjigeorgalis** had the highest rate of participation on



campus, earning her a distinguished membership along with her colleague **Rosanna Alvarez-Diemer**. Connie Falk and

Jim Libbin earned memberships. Hadjigeorgalis and Cynda Clary are Teaching Academy board members.

Department renaming official

Regents of New Mexico State University approved the renaming of the Agronomy and Horticulture Department to Plant and Environmental Sciences Department at its December meeting. This was the

culmination of a several-month process through departmental, college and university processes to effect the name change at the request of the faculty.

Pete Walden wins conservation award



Pete Walden, Quay county Extension agent since 2003, won the New Mexico Association of Conservation Districts' Outstanding

Conservationist Award. Nominated by the Canadian River Soil and Conservation District last spring, Walden was recognized for his seminars, workshops and outdoor classroom programs for children and adults on topics like noxious weeds and xeriscaping.

Conservation district clerk Evelyn Massey said Walden has impressed locals with his interest in farmers, ranchers and youngsters of the district.

Communications restructured, consolidated

A Dec. 12 memorandum from Ben Woods, senior vice president, outlined consolidation of communications functions as follows:

"I am pleased to announce the promotion of Ms. Maureen Howard to the position of Associate Vice President for University Communications and Marketing Services. In this capacity Ms. Howard will report to me and will oversee the consolidation of all communications functions for the university into a combined and collaborative effort. This move will result in the consolidation of communications and production units currently assigned to the academic colleges and the Office of Facilities and Services. Other units will follow at a later date.

"Furthermore, this action results in the creation of four Director-level positions reporting to Ms. Howard. These will be the Director of University Broadcasting, who will be responsible for management of KRWG television and radio with the objective to advance the mission of NMSU through strong student internships and increased local programming. We have asked Mr. Bill Grigaliunas to assume this position on an interim basis while we conduct a search for the permanent

*director. Next will be Director of Marketing Services, who will be responsible for understanding our markets and creating strategies that influence those markets through creative services. I am pleased to announce that Ms. Ellen Castello will lead this group. Next will be Director of News and Media Relations, who will be responsible for working with the media to extend the reach and presence of the university. This department will also be responsible for improving internal communication tools and coordinating media response to crisis situations. Ms. Mary Benanti will assume this position. Next will be Director of Media Productions. **Dr. Jeanne Gleason** will assume this role. This new department will build on the success of media productions in the College of Agriculture and Home Economics. The unit will be responsible for video, print and multimedia production as well as CD-ROM and DVD duplication. It will continue to provide strong central support for educational material used in all outreach activities. To ensure consistency of our external communications and to realize economies of scale, we will be implementing a policy that all printed materials go through this portal."*

Events

Jan. 27-29

4-H Senior Leadership Retreat
Albuquerque
Contact: Amy Zemler, 646-5204

Feb. 1

Pesticide Applicators Workshop
Hobbs
Contact: Lonnie Matthews,
646-1822

Feb. 7

New Mexico Chile Conference
Las Cruces
Contact: Danise Coon, 646-3028

Feb. 21-22

New Mexico Ag Expo
Portales
Contact: Floyd McAlistar,
505-356-4417

Feb. 23-24

Efficient Urban Landscape
Water Use Symposium
Las Cruces
Contact: Jeanine Castillo,
649-0501

March 5-7

40th Annual Pecan Conference
Las Cruces
Contact: Richard Heerema,
646-2921

For more information go to www.cahe.nmsu.edu and click "calendar of events."

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Caldwell awarded fellow status



Colleen Caldwell, acting leader of the New Mexico Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Unit, was awarded fellow status

by the American Institute of Fishery Research Biologists this past fall. She came to NMSU in 1994 as assistant leader of the unit

and continues research in aquatic contaminant toxicology and imperiled native southwestern fishes. She teaches graduate courses and serves as a technical adviser to state and federal cooperators. She is also a member of the American Fisheries Society, Desert Fishes Council and Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry.