

*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*

**THE
LEADING
OBJECT**

NMSU's College of Agriculture and Home Economics

Vol. 15, No. 1, January 2001

The Dean's Perspective

Building Partnerships, the theme of our All-College Conference, is in many ways the theme of my administration. We live in a networked society that demands speed, convenience and fluidity in its day-to-day dealings. There is less tolerance than ever for tending political turf. In fact, we are seeing that in the attitudes of voters toward the partisanship of Washington.

What today's citizens want are systems that work for the good of consumers. In the public realm, that requires we recognize that different public entities work together and that public/private partnerships be pursued as well.

Extension's report to President Gogue, delivered Jan. 4, emphasized the adaptability of Extension through reaching out to other agencies, through accepting grants from more private organizations and from a broader array of public agencies, and through agents being intimately involved in coalitions at the local level.

This is a good message that we all can learn from. Partnerships can be part of a win-win situation for us, our partners and those we serve. ❖



Gonzalez heads Experiment Station

I. Miley Gonzalez, formerly an under secretary with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, has returned to NMSU's College of Agriculture and Home Economics as associate dean and director of the Experiment Station.

Gonzalez, who joined USDA in August 1997, was on unpaid leave as the college's associate dean for Academic Programs. As under secretary for research, education and economics, he oversaw four major agencies with a total budget of \$1.7 billion.

"He will be bringing with him an immense storehouse of infor-

mation that will be beneficial to the college and citizens of New Mexico," said Dean Jerry Schickedanz. "I know you will join me in welcoming Miley back to the college and New Mexico."

Gonzalez served as assistant dean and deputy Extension director from 1994 to 1996. From 1991 to 1994, he headed Agricultural and Extension Education. He directed the college's international programs from 1992 to 1994.

He has worked at three other land-grant universities: Iowa State, Arizona and Pennsylvania State. ❖

Roybal named student regent

Antonia Lucia Roybal, a student from the College of Agriculture and Home Economics, is NMSU's new student regent.

Roybal, a hotel, restaurant and tourism management major, will serve a two-year term as a voting member of the Board of Regents. She said she applied for the position after realizing former student regent Avery Culbertson, also from the college, was completing her term in December.

"I saw the pictures on the wall and decided to do it," Roybal said.

Roybal is a Crimson Scholar who has been on the dean's list for the past three semesters. She is one credit shy of junior status.

Roybal is a Fabian Garcia Multicultural Scholar. She has been active in the Hospitality and Tourism Student Association and Sigma Alpha, a new sorority in the

college, though not in politics or student government.

"I want to work on making it more affordable for students to stay in school," she said.

She has a job as a student aide in the entomology department at the New Mexico Department of Agriculture.

Roybal's family has strong ties to the college and NMSU. Her sister Fran, a human nutrition major, is a college ambassador and works in the Academic Programs office.

Her brother Nathaniel, who graduated last May with a degree in animal science, is in medical school in the M.D./Ph.D. program at the University of New Mexico. Another sister, Emily, is an NMSU nursing major. Her parents, Cristobal and Anita, were inducted as honorary members of the college's Sam Steel Society last May. ❖

Science center employee earns Roberts award

Dan Smeal, an agricultural specialist with NMSU's Agricultural Science Center at Farmington, was selected for the Stephen W. and Robert E. Roberts Memorial Staff Award.

The award is presented annually to a staff member who has made a contribution to university life and demonstrated dedication and outstanding service to the community.

Smeal has been an employee of NMSU's agricultural science centers in Clovis and Farmington for the past 17 years. His work has focused on crop water use, water-efficient turfgrass and better irrigation management.

"I think he deserved to be nominated because of his excellent work," said Mick O'Neill, superintendent of the Farmington center.

Smeal has worked with chile, alfalfa, corn and turf. He has focused on the relationships between crop yield and water use and on finding more efficient ways to irrigate crops and manage irrigation systems.

"Obviously, as the population increases in the Southwest, the demand for water is also increasing," Smeal said. "It's a precious resource that has to be conserved and used wisely to ensure we have an adequate supply for the future."

Smeal received \$750 and a plaque during a public reception Jan. 11. ❖

Monger wins Roush award

Curtis Monger, associate professor in Agronomy and Horticulture, received the 2001 Donald C. Roush Award for Teaching Excellence during NMSU convocation ceremonies Jan. 4.

Monger teaches a number of courses, including soils, soils and land use, soil morphology, soil classification and soil genesis. His students praise his knowledge of the subject matter, enthusiasm, good humor and use of visual aids.

Monger says it's easy to get students excited about studying soils in New Mexico, probably because the landscapes are so beautiful.

"I feel honored and humbled in getting the award because there are so many good teachers in the College of Agriculture and Home

Economics," Monger said.

Monger, winner of the college's 1999 Distinguished Teaching Award, tries to give students the "big picture" of soil science, showing them its environmental, ecological, archeological and agricultural importance. His research has dealt with issues such as soil genesis, soil classification, desertification and global climate change.

The annual Roush awards, named for a former NMSU executive vice president, are based on information from graduating students, department heads, deans and branch campus directors. The awards are given to an outstanding faculty member from each NMSU college. ❖

Beck named acting department head

Reldon Beck, range science professor, has been named acting department head of Animal and Range Sciences.

The appointment was effective Jan. 2, Dean Jerry Schickedanz said.

Beck, who joined the department in 1971, teaches courses in range management, ecology and research methods. He chairs the NMSU Faculty Senate.

Beck replaces Bobby Rankin, who had served as department head on a part-time, interim basis following his retirement.

Interviews are taking place this month with four candidates for

department head: Tim Ross, NMSU animal science professor; Mike Galyean, former superintendent at the Clayton Livestock Research Center and Thornton distinguished professor of animal science at Texas Tech; Gary Moss, professor at the University of Wyoming; and Mark Wise, professor at the University of Arizona.

Committee members are Chris Allison, chair; Mark Petersen; Dean Hawkins; Dennis Hallford; Ron Parker; Grant Kinzer; Neil Burcham; Gary Donart; Jimmy Bason and Rob Cox. ❖

Deans' Coffee Time

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



Partnerships highlighted at All-College Conference

All-College Conference presentations highlighted successful research, industry and community partnerships involving scores of groups that work with NMSU's College of Agriculture and Home Economics.

"Partnership is nothing more than another word for trust," NMSU President Jay Gogue said in his opening remarks Jan. 3. During the conference, Gogue shared his vision of bachelor's and master's degree programs in every county Extension office. He also requested help in establishing alumni chapters throughout the state.

Three panels made up of NMSU researchers, Extension faculty and outside partners discussed ways of building and maintaining trust in partnerships.

In the arid lands discussion, Laura Huenneke, biology department head, noted that successful collaborations come from the bottom up and are maintained on a personal level. Debra Peters with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Jornada Experimental Range emphasized that money and top-down efforts alone won't work.

Bruce Thompson, head of the Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit at NMSU, urged scientists to tap into Extension's

expertise when dealing with contentious issues. "Get with Extension early to draw on their insight and communications network," he said.

Members of the industry partnerships panel said it's important to "just ask" for advice and donations.

Michael Cerletti, interim head of Hotel, Restaurant and Tourism Management, said 21 industry advisers donate their time, providing input about the curriculum and job opportunities for students. "We need to know what industry expects," he said.

Cerletti, a former HRTM adviser and the first New Mexico tourism secretary, noted that industry members had helped raise \$50,000 to endow the Gordon Heiss fund to bring outside experts to campus.

Marvin Clary with Border Foods, a member of the Chile Pepper Task Force, said that NMSU and industry are successfully tackling the problems facing New Mexico's chile industry.

"The college committed resources first, took that first step, and industry followed," he said.

The threat of losing the state's \$200 million chile processing industry motivated Clary to work with his competitors on the task force. The NMSU-industry group sponsors research and educational

activities on mechanical harvesting, drip irrigation and best management practices. It recently secured \$625,000 in federal funding for mechanical harvesting research.

"Figure out what you can do for industry that they can't do for themselves," said Jeanne Gleason, agricultural communications faculty member and executive producer. Gleason, who has worked on trilingual educational materials and international documentaries, also recommended maintaining autonomy when developing educational programs and bringing in competitors.

Local needs can spur effective partnerships with growth potential, community panelists said. "Without partnerships, we wouldn't be doing diabetes education in New Mexico," said Martha Archuleta, Extension food and nutrition specialist.

Through local efforts and partnerships with healthcare providers, Extension now has a statewide diabetes education coordinator and programs in 25 counties to help the 7 percent of the state's population with the disease. Kitchen Creations, new classes to teach healthy food preparation for diabetics, will be offered in 12 communities this year.

Continued on page 4

Livestock industry leader Eppers dies

Bud Eppers, rancher and longtime livestock industry leader, died Jan. 11. He was 66.

Eppers had operated and managed the family ranch in Roswell since 1962, raising Debouillet sheep, English cross cows and yearlings. He also assisted landowners with water rights and grazing permit issues through his consulting service, Bud Eppers and Associates.

Eppers received the Outstanding Leadership Award from the College of Agriculture and Home Economics last April. He had served on NMSU's Range Improvement Task Force advisory committee since the

inception of the land-use study group in 1978. He has been secretary/director of the New Mexico Department of Agriculture's advisory committee since 1984.

Eppers served as president of both the New Mexico and the National Public Lands councils and the New Mexico Cattle Growers Association. He served on the board of the New Mexico Wool Growers Association and was past chair of the federal lands committee for the National Cattlemen's Association. He was elected to the Chaves County Commission in November.

Eppers was recognized in 1992 by Newsweek as one of the Top 20 "Movers and Shakers" of the 1990s. He had been named cattleman of the year, sheepman of the year and three-time CowBelle father of the year.

He is survived by his wife, Alice, four children, seven grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Memorial contributions can be made in Eppers' name to the NMSU Foundation, Attention DuBois Rodeo Scholarship, New Mexico Department of Agriculture, MSC 3189, Box 30005, Las Cruces, 88003-88005. ❖

ETC.

Horse judging team wraps up season

NMSU's horse judging team ended the 2000 season with a fifth-place finish at the National Reining Horse Association's collegiate judging contest in Oklahoma City, Okla., in December.

NMSU also was sixth overall and fifth in the performance class at the American Quarter Horse Association competition in Oklahoma City in November. Team members for 2000 were Jennie McDowell, Jeanean Hildebrandt, Rachel Rosencrans, Ricardo Renteria and Erin Frye.

NMSU begins the 2001 judging season with the Introductory Horse Evaluation class (ANSC 245) this spring, coach David Denniston said. For more information, contact Denniston at 646-2844.

Aaron, Richman and Sutherland submit winning posters

The first-ever poster competition at All-College Conference ended in a first-place tie with \$250 awards for each of the two winning entries.

Patricia Aaron, home economist, submitted a winning poster about

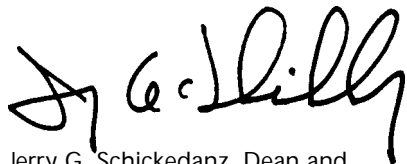
Extension programs in Bernalillo County, including the agriculture, 4-H, Family and Community Education, Master Food Preservers, Expanded Food and Nutrition Education and Share/Care after-school programs.

"The Arthropod Museum: What Is It Good for?" was the title of the winning poster by David Richman, science specialist, and Carol Sutherland, Extension entomologist.

"We hope the contest and prize money will provide an incentive for submitting posters," said Dean Jerry Schickedanz. ❖

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

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Jerry G. Schickedanz, Dean and Chief Administrative Officer

Partnerships continued

Esther Devall, associate professor with Family and Consumer Sciences, outlined the Family Strengthening Partnership, a grant-funded parenting education project to reduce substance abuse through working with families with young children. Studies have shown that working with families is nine times more effective in preventing substance abuse than targeting the child at school. The project, which was recently expanded in Doña Ana County, will also provide

training for nutrition educators across the state.

Keith Mandabach, assistant HRTM professor, discussed a community cocina at Las Cruces' Court Youth center, which will provide job training opportunities for high school and college students, community members and welfare-to-work clients. Construction will begin soon on the project, which involves NMSU, the city, community college, youth center and public schools. ❖



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Need to 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.