José Fernández Memorial Chair in Crop Production
Mick O'Neill, 2010 - 2013
Mick O'Neill, Assoc. Professor of Agronomy, receives the José Fernández Memorial Chair in Crop Production from Dr. Jay Jordan, Interim Vice President and Provost. Also participating are (left to right) Dr. Lowell Catlett, Dean of the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences, Amy O'Neill, Kyle O'Neill, Dr. Jon Boren, Assoc. Dean/Dir. of Coop. Extension Service, Casey O'Neill, Dr. LeRoy Daugherty, Assoc. Dean/Dir. of Agricultural Experiment Station, and Dr. Jim Libbin Assoc. Dean/Dir. of Academic Programs.
Mick O'Neill, Associate Professor of Agronomy, Recipient of Jose Fernandez Memorial Chair Award

Dr. Mick O'Neill, Associate Professor of Agronomy in NMSU's College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences, was awarded the Jose Fernandez Memorial Chair in Crop Production for his outstanding efforts in crop research. In this ceremony, in which Dr. O'Neill's colleagues and family attended, Dr. Jay Jordan, Interim Executive VP and Provost, presented Dr. O'Neill with this prestigious award.

As the former superintendent of the Agricultural Science Center at Farmington, Dr. O'Neill oversaw the operation of this branch of NMSU for 10 years in Farmington that serves the agricultural needs for large and small scale producers in the San Juan River basin of northwest New Mexico and the Four Corners. Currently, Dr. O'Neill is devoting his research interests to the adaptation of hybrid poplar to arid/semi-arid environments, characteristic of much of the western United States Intermountain Region. He is also focusing on the sustainable development of biofuel crops including poplar for cellulosic ethanol production and oilseed crops for biodiesel.

Before joining NMSU in 1999, Dr. O'Neill spent 10 years in Kenya, Africa, working in soil and water conservation, the development of fodder trees/shrubs for small holder dairy animals, and improvement of fruit trees with the International Centre for Research in Agroforestry (ICRAF). In 2009 he spent six months in Kenya and Rwanda to development crop water use evaluations for the Rwandan Irrigation Master Plan.

Dr. O'Neill has published more than 46 peer-reviewed articles and technical reports. He holds a M.S. in soil and Water Science and a Ph.D. in Agronomy and Plant Genetics from the University of Arizona.

The Jose Fernandez Memorial Chair in Crop Production (aces.nmsu.edu/aes/fernandezchair) was established in 1992 by the Enrique Chavez family in recognition of Mr. Fernandez's contribution to NMSU and the agricultural community.

Dr. O'Neill can be reached at moneill@nmsu.edu.
Chavez family million-dollar gift largest ever for Foundation

More than 70 years ago, poor, barely literate Mexican boy began a dream that today has enabled his descendants to make the largest gift ever to the NMSU Foundation. To honor the determination of Mesilla Valley pioneer farmer Jose Fernando Chavez's daughter, Grace Chavez of Las Cruces, who has endowed a land in trust valued at more than one million dollars. The proceeds from the eventual sale of the land on El Paseo Road will create the Jose Fernandez Chair in Field Crop Production in the College of Agriculture as well as scholarships for any qualified student. The gift also means NMSU will receive $450,000 in matching funds from the state of New Mexico to establish the chair, which is a permanently funded, prestigious professorship for an outstanding scientist in the field.

Grace and her husband, Enrique Chavez, own the Welcome Inn in Las Cruces believe the gift in trust to the university is a fitting way to recognize the farmer who placed a high value on education, though he had virtually none himself.

"My dad was a believer in education because he thought it was something that no one can ever take away," said Mrs. Chavez, one of six children born to Jose and Manuela Martinez Chavez. "He taught himself a great deal, but he always believed that if I had had an education, he would have done even better in life." At 21, the boy who never learned to read and write until he was 21 years old nonetheless managed to acquire six farms in the Mesilla Valley, one for each of his children before he retired from farming at age 74.

Jose Fernandez's story begins in Coconino, Mexico, in the state of Chihuahua, where he was born to a farmer, Vicente Fernandez and Guadalupe Chavez de Fernandez in 1854. When Jose was 6, his father died, leaving his mother and three young children to support themselves. Two years later, she married Theodor Rul, a farmer and shoemaker. Searching for work, the family moved to Chihuahua City, later to Casas Grandes and finally to the small village of Casas Grandes.

Through the years, Jose worked alongside his parents to put food on the family table. He and his stepfather sowed, cut, picked and loaded the crops, and later, Jose became a "teamster," delivering supplies by wagon train to small neighboring villages.

As a child, he never had the chance to go to school. In fact, he was 21 before he had any education at all. Then, he went to night school for two years to learn to read and write.

He worked to join Pancho Villa in the revolution, he told his mother, but she objected. In fact, the family moved to Juarez to escape the war. Within months, Jose crossed the border into the United States where he worked as a teamster and laborer.

His children remember Jose Fernandez as being a "savings-minded man," perhaps the key to his success. When he saved enough money from his hard labor, he had no time in following his dream of becoming a farmer. He rented 40 acres in Santo Tomas (now Stahmann Farms) and grew alfalfa, which he sold to the railroad at Fort Bliss. That first year, he made enough money to buy a house and a buggy—signs of status in those days.

When he was 26 years old, he married Isabella Martinez, an El Paso factory worker, and they soon had a son, Vicente, and then another, Eduardo.

In 1915, the family moved to Mesilla Park and within a year Jose Fernandez bought his first piece of real estate—a three-room adobe house on Mesquite Street in Las Cruces, where he continued to rent farmland. But his real earning, for his own farm, was satisfied soon after. In 1919, he met Emma Hadley, NMSU's founder and first president, and the next year, Fernandez bought five acres from Hadley for $500—his first farm.

The children kept coming—Loren, Stan, Liz, and finally Grace—and Fernandez bought land and houses, little by little. When he wasn't in the fields, he was supplementing his income by dredging irrigation ditches for the Bureau of Reclamation, clearing land for development of the young college, hauling wood for the college furnaces, or plowing the garden of President Hadley.

His children were his field helpers—but only after they had an education. Fernandez was adamant that his children get the education he never had.

By 1940, Jose Fernandez was 55 years old and had achieved a dream: he owned six small farms, each with a house, for each of his children.

Over the years, he had hung on to another dream, that someday he would have enough money to return to Mexico. But in 1960, Fernandez realized that his place would always be in the United States. Once again, he wanted to retire to the farm land near El Paseo and Solaris, a link between the town and the university. This gift reminds us of that relationship and of our beginnings as an agricultural college," Stewart said.

"I think my father would be really proud of this gift," Grace Chavez said. "He will continue to have a part in developing the agriculture of this valley, she suggested, because the chair will be devoted to field crop production.

Jose Fernandez

My dad was a believer in education, he taught himself a great deal, but he always believed that if he had had an education, he would have done even better in life.

—Grace Fernandez Chavez

Jose Fernandez Chair

Chavez family million-dollar gift largest ever for Foundation

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Panorama June 1988
José Fernández Family Tree & Selection Committee

José Fernández and Manuela Martinez

LENORA, VICTENTE, EDUARDO, RITA, LUIS, AND GRACE

Grace Fernandez and Enrique Chavez

Vince, Emily, Eva and Henrietta

Henrietta Chavez and Javier Vargas

Vicente Vargas

Vicente Vargas and José Fernández Committee

José Fernández Chair Selection Committee: 2010 – 2013
- Steve Loren, Dean's Representative and Committee Chair
- Vicente Vargas, Family Representative
- John Mexal, PES Representative
- Tom Dormody, AXED Representative
- Ted Sammis, Past José Fernández Chair
Crop Production Research

José Fernández Chair support to crop production in variety trials, oilseed evaluations, hybrid poplar adaptation, phytoremediation, and indigenous cottonwood germplasm collection.
DEVELOPING AN IRRIGATION MASTER PLAN IN RWANDA: NMSU RESEARCHER HELPS IMPROVING FARMING IN AFRICA

By Hamid M. Rad

Rwanda is up in the highlands; it's called the Switzerland of Africa. They have a lot of lakes, streams, and ponds, but they are all on the slopes, as a result there are issues with water management, not just simply water storage.

After spending six months in Kenya and Rwanda to oversee the development of an irrigation master plan for these countries, Dr. Mick O'Neil, superintendent of NMSU's Agricultural Science Center at Farmington, has returned to New Mexico.

As a senior scientist, agronomist and agroforester, Dr. O'Neil has spent more than 20 years conducting agricultural research and development in both East and West Africa. Before joining NMSU, he spent 10 years in Kenya working in soil and water conservation, development of agroforestry systems, and fruit tree improvement for the International Centre for Research in Agroforestry (ICRAF).

"Rwanda is in the East African highlands and is called the Switzerland of Africa," says Dr. O'Neil. "There are lots of lakes, streams, and ponds, but they are surrounded by sloping fields, so there is a major issue with water management, not simply water storage," he adds.

The practice of rainwater harvesting for farms involves the capture of water runoff, and constructed collection ponds where rainwater can be stored, and small agroforestry gardens irrigated with water diverted from these ponds. From 2005 to 2008, the ICRAF trained Rwandan farmers and soil and water conservation technicians about rainwater harvesting and constructed more than 100 rainwater collection ponds and agroforestry gardens.

In 2009, during his sabbatical, Dr. O'Neil spent six months in Africa working along with his team of collaborators on developing an irrigation master plan for Rwanda. They were initially based in Nairobi, frequently travelling to Rwanda for their work. This master plan will be used as a tool for the Rwandan Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Resources (MINAGRI) for their long-term strategic plan to facilitate irrigation to the rural population.

"Rwanda has the highest population density on the continent—450 people per square kilometer—which is mostly a rural population," says Dr. O'Neil.

During Phase I, the team was looking for regions appropriate for irrigation with contiguous areas of up to 200 hectares. Initially, they were looking for suitable areas with slopes of up to 60%. This was later reduced to sloping areas of less than 15%. During these initial visits, the areas that the team focused on included Kigali, Bugesera, Nyagatare, and Gitarama Districts.

Based on his work in Africa, Dr. O'Neil along with one of his colleagues from Australia submitted a proposal to the National Science Foundation's Basic Research to Enable Agricultural Development (BREAD) program. In addition, he has written several peer-reviewed articles, authored or co-authored five posters during the 2009 World Agroforestry Congress in Kenya, and organized educational workshops while in Kenya.

"There are opportunities for collaboration between ICRAF and NMSU," emphasized Dr. O'Neil in his recent colloquium at the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences. As he explains, both NMSU and ICRAF scientists conduct research dealing with irrigation, rainfed agriculture, wildlife issues, and rangeland management. Since the ICRAF's involvement spans Africa, Southeast Asia, China, India, and Latin America, it deals with border issues as well. As a result ICRAF would be a suitable partner for NMSU researchers working in other areas such as agriculture, environmental, and the social sciences.

"ICRAF and NMSU could pursue a scientist exchange program, where all of our departments could participate," suggests Dr. O'Neil.

Student internships are another avenue of collaboration that can be pursued between NMSU and ICRAF. Dr. O'Neil's work has already provided an internship opportunity for one of his students, Owen Corrigan. In 2009, he, along with Dr. Rich Phillips, Director for Programs for the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences, participated in the second World Congress for Agroforestry, hosted by ICRAF, in Nairobi, Kenya, and as part of his internship in Africa Mr. Corrigan will join ICRAF in a research attachment position during the summer of 2010.

As a mean to comment on climatic troubles that part of Africa, Dr. O'Neil said that those problems are caused by poverty."Fortunately there are a number of organizations in the world trying to do something about it," he added.

Dr. O'Neil holds a Ph.D. in Agronomy and Plant Genetics from the University of Arizona. He has published more than 45 peer-reviewed articles and technical reports. He joined NMSU in 1999. He and his wife, Amy, also a former Peace Corps volunteer, have lived in Africa for many years and their two sons, Casey and Kyle, grew up in Kenya speaking Ki-Swahili and English.

Dr. O'Neil can be reached at monell@nmsu.edu

Sabbatical Leave with ICRAF in Rwanda

The year prior to receiving the José Fernández Chair provided an opportunity to strengthen the existing Memorandum of Understanding between NMSU and ICRAF by working on a project with the ICRAF Water Management Unit to development an Irrigation Master Plan for Rwanda which led to future José Fernández Chair opportunities.
International Collaboration

The José Fernández Chair, along with the Lowenstein Speaker Series and International Programs, invited Maimbo Malesu, Agricultural Engineer and Head of Water Management for the World Agroforestry Centre (a.k.a. ICRAF) based in Nairobi, Kenya, to NMSU for workshops and consultations regarding further strengthening of linkages between NMSU and ICRAF.
Guest Scientist from Kenya Strengthens NMSU's International Partnerships in Africa

by Hamid M. Rad, OSJ

Mr. Maimbo Malesu describing rainwater harvesting methods used in Kenya.

Mr. Maimbo Malesu, coordinator for the Water Management Unit at the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF) in Nairobi, Kenya, visited NMSU last October and lectured for the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Science's annual Lowenstein Lecture series and the Plant and Environmental Sciences (PES) graduate student seminar. His lectures on overcoming the food crises in Africa and the formation of an irrigation master plan for Rwanda were attended by NMSU faculty, researchers, and students.

Mr. Malesu's collaboration with NMSU is through an MOU between ICRAF and NMSU that was finalized in 2005 by Dr. Mick O'Neill, professor of agronomy at NMSU's Agricultural Science Center, in Farmington.

"The problem water managers are facing in Rwanda is a lack of capacity to harness rainwater and distribute it to farms and industry," says Dr. O'Neill. By participating in seminars and workshops, Mr. Malesu is campaigning to raise awareness and sensitize governments and universities all over the world to the importance of rainwater harvesting management.

He coordinates rainwater harvesting research and dissemination for ICRAF in Eastern and Southern Africa and in South Asia, where he and his team train communities about best practices in water management, set up pilot projects, and share their experiences with policymakers so they may implement the necessary improvements in the policies they develop. The pilot projects that involve rainwater harvesting and associated irrigation systems have been installed in many regions in Rwanda in collaboration with the Rwandan Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources. A previously developed MOU between NMSU and ICRAF contains opportunities for an exchange program, where students and faculty can participate in a range of research activities including efforts to develop more effective water management strategies.

It was through this exchange program that PES student Owen Cortner spent the 2010 summer conducting an evaluation of previously installed run-off harvesting ponds and irrigation systems for agroforestry gardens. Also within this MOU, Dr. O'Neill spent a sabbatical in Nairobi working with Mr. Malesu on an Irrigation Master Plan (IMP) project for the Government of Rwanda. The recommendations of the IMP team were approved by the government of Rwanda in September 2010, and the Prime Minister of Rwanda launched the implementation of the Irrigation Master Plan through the publication of a technical report.

In his lecture on the food crisis in Rwanda, Mr. Malesu highlighted poor agricultural practices prevalent in farming communities. "We found that it is a political issue as well," says Mr. Malesu. "People in that region do not have sufficient economic investment in place despite an abundant water supply. Governments mainly invest in dam construction. The problem with dams is that there cannot be enough of them. Only 5% of the total land mass would provide good locations for the construction of dams. The other option is creating wells, but they are too expensive for farmers to construct."

To promote the practice of rainwater harvesting, Mr. Malesu and his colleagues established the Southern and Eastern Africa Rainwater Network (SeaNet), which is a network of national rainwater harvesting associations from 12 African countries. The aim of each association is to promote rainwater harvesting practices within each country. The membership includes government and non-government organizations.

Mr. Malesu's visit and the cooperation from ICRAF showcase the importance of international partnerships for the university. Faculty and students must be engaged in today's world, and opportunities for international education should be further integrated into curriculum and coordinated across departments to maximize benefits.

Mr. Malesu's visit was made possible through the Dr. Lowenstein Lecture Series, International Programs, and the Jose Fernandez Memorial Chair in Crop Production.

For additional information about NMSU's collaboration with ICRAF, contact Dr. O'Neill at moneill@nmsu.edu.
Agricultural Academics in Action

International student research and Honors Thesis Advisor, Service Learn for Women (SLW) & African Women in Agricultural Research in Development (AWARD) collaboration, Student Internships, Peach Corps Fellows, Aggies Go Global, and the Model United Nations Program were all partially supported by the José Fernández Chair.
NMSU Student Spends Summer in Africa Helping to Improve Irrigation Practices in Rwanda

By Hamid M. Rad, OSI

Owen Cotner, an NMSU Plant and Environmental Sciences major, spent this summer working on an internship in Africa. Through an agreement between NMSU and the World Agroforestry Centre (WAC), Owen was hosted by the WAC as an attached undergraduate student. The Centre, one of fifteen institutions around the world, makes up the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR). The WAC, based in Nairobi, Kenya, works to develop more productive, diversified, integrated, and intensified agroforestry systems that provide livelihood and environmental benefits. A key element within this goal is smart water management.

Owen’s assignment in Rwanda was to conduct a rapid assessment of runoff harvesting pond irrigation systems for small farmers engaged in agroforestry and determine strategies for improvement. Preliminary findings of Mr. Cotner’s study indicate that inefficient hand-watering techniques are widespread due to a lack of capital to invest in needed systems such as deep irrigation. There are efficient low-cost irrigation methods available which farmers could be educated about,” says Owen. “The runoff harvesting ponds themselves work very well, but the amount of water stored by the ponds is often not matched to the size of the plot that is intended to receive irrigation, resulting in water deficits for crops towards the end of the dry season. There is a great opportunity to address these and other smallholder agricultural issues through improved extension efforts and farmer capacity building.”

To analyze the runoff harvesting ponds, the team used two strategies: on-site observations and geographic information system (GIS) data, including soil type, watershed delineations, rainfall, land cover, and temperature. On-site observations gave an idea of the experience the farmers had using the system and their perceptions of the system. GIS analysis showed what potential water harvests could be, and the amount of water a farm would need given its location and cropping system.

This internship was funded by a linkages grant from USAID via the World Agroforestry Centre, as well as support from Agrees Go Global. This combined assistance covered Owen’s work-related living expenses in Rwanda.

Watershed Management Program at the WAC, and Dr. Mick O’Neill, Jose Fernandez Memorial Chair in Crop Production at NMSU, jointly supervised the internship. Work was performed collaboratively with a dedicated group of Kenyan and Rwandan agroforestry professionals.

“A foreign student in Rwanda faces many challenges, including cultural differences such as cuisine and the slower pace of life, although eventually these turn into enjoyable aspects,” says Owen. “Also, though it is a pleasant, friendly country, it is not the developed world, and students should not expect the ubiquitous conveniences of life in the United States.”

Asked for his advice to other students, Owen suggests that they should work diligently to engage the community around them so that they have a sense of belonging and purpose. “I recommend that students with the drive to succeed and the will to be humble in a foreign culture pursue internships, service-learning experiences, or any other international opportunity they can find,” adds Owen. “It is invaluable as a complement to a student’s education. I would take a job in Africa tomorrow if I was finished with my degree, and I plan to do just that once I graduate.”

“I would take a job in Africa tomorrow if I was finished with my degree, and I plan to do just that once I graduate.” says Dr. O’Neill. Professor Maleku will be on campus in October to meet with students and faculty and to present two guest lectures. These lectures will be a follow-up to a seminar to be presented by Cotner to the Plant and Environmental Sciences Graduate Student Seminar, at 3:30 on October 8, 2010.

For further information, contact Dr. O’Neill, moneill@nmsu.edu. Owen Cotner can be reached at oecotner@nmsu.edu.

Owen with a gorilla in the background at Volcano National Park in Rwanda.
Linda Stout Demonstrates the "Power of One"

In 2010 Linda Stout of Grand Junction, CO, approached the College of Agricultural, Environmental and Consumer Sciences (ACES) with the idea of creating a full tuition "Second Chance" scholarship for an undergraduate woman studying in that college. The goal was to support someone who lost a previous scholarship award but now demonstrated renewed focus on studies by bringing her GPA up to 3.0. She named the award in memory of her father, Victor P. Stout, the son of homesteaders from Curry County who studied at NMSU as a freshman.

Pleased with the success of that initial gift to the college, Stout was open to the idea of funding another project that expanded on her interest in empowering women from other parts of the world to enhance their impact through education, particularly in agricultural-related areas. You might say that the stars aligned and out came the new Service Learning for Women initiative in the College of ACES.

Professor Mick O’Neill, who holds the Jose Fernandez memorial chair in crop production, is now based at the Agricultural Science Center in Farmington, but he has spent much of his life teaching in other parts of the world, including Africa. He suggested partnering with the AWARD (African Women in Agricultural Research and Development) program based in Nairobi, Kenya, to identify qualified women working in areas that would match the expertise of ACES faculty and programs.

Linda inherited her father’s love of travel and likes to use these experiences to learn how other people live around the world. After early career frustrations, she enrolled in the technical writing program at NMSU, earning her Master’s degree in 1981. That paved a way for a job with IBM in Tucson which gave her the resources to expand her traveling.

She has also been active in mentoring programs aimed at empowering women. The Service Learning for Women concept matched Linda’s goal to create broader learning opportunities for African women to achieve their highest potential. She agreed to underwrite the cost of the first year’s program.

That brought four women from Ethiopia, Malawi, Mozambique and Ghana to New Mexico State University in the fall of 2011 for four weeks of training, teaching, travel and cultural exchange among the participants, faculty, students, the Las Cruces community and individuals across the state that are involved in small and large-scale agricultural production.

At the end of a whirlwind month each participant agreed she was changed for good. Stout says, "The rewards of being the donor on Service Learning for Women are due in no small part to the time I spent with the women during last year’s program as their host, chauffeur, and leadership trainer. I look forward to doing that again with the new group in September. What a gift to me!"

Service Learning for Women (SLW) - African Women in Agricultural Research and Development (AWARD)

In partnership with SLW, the José Fernández Chair helped support four African women from Ethiopia, Uganda, Malawi, and Mozambique to participate in a month long training program at NMSU, with a Field Trip to ASC-Farmington.
SLW Fellows

Chilonda Precious Chakavuta, a Gender Specialist from the Farmers Union of Malawi. She has a BSc in Environmental Science from the University of Malawi, Bunda College of Agriculture. In addition to working with the Farmers Union, Precious is a student at University of Malawi, Chancellor College, studying for an MSc in Environmental Science. Her greatest satisfaction is helping rural and low-income urban women farmers practice the use of Bosasa manure in their fields and seeing their crop yields greatly improve.

Esther Betty Vakalisa Warnondo, a Nutritionist with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) working in Karamoja District of northern Uganda. Esther has a BSc in Food Science & Technology from Universidad de la Habana (Cuba) and an MSc in Applied Human Nutrition from Makerere University, Kampala (Uganda). She is helping women in the Karamoja region, which is the most disadvantaged area in Uganda with poor socio-economic conditions, devastated infrastructure, and high levels of illiteracy and malnutrition.

Anabela da Piedade Mabanga, a Senior Researcher and Head of Technology Transfer Department, Mozambique Agriculture Research Institute (INAM). Anabela has an MSc in Veterinary Medicine from the University of Pretoria, South Africa. As head of technology transfer, she coordinates all activities related to technology transfer of agricultural research to farmers and extension staff. Additionally, she coordinates gender activities at the institute and is currently serving as the moderator of the Gender Unit of the Ministry of Agriculture.

Maza Melkamu Abawari, the Manager for Development Grant and Private Non-Sponsoring Grant Department with World Vision (Ethiopia). Maza has an MSc in Horticulture from Nasomaya University, also in Ethiopia. She leads the food security program, gives technical guidance and supervises staff in the field. She is also responsible for natural resource management for six NGOs working on food security for which she conducts studies and provides guidance for policy makers, development practitioners and communities in conserving natural resources.

Program

- 6:30 Arrive at St. Clair Winery & Bistro
- 7:00 Sit down dinner — see menu for choices
- 8:00 Welcome — Brenda Severs
  - Program Overview — Linda Stout
  - Brief introductions
  - Fellows' presentations
  - Invited women's presentations
  - Depart for hotel and homes

Coordinating Faculty

- Linda Stout, Program Donor & Facilitator, SLW
- Brenda Severs, Program Coordinator, SLW
- Connie Padilla, Assistant Program Coordinator, SLW
- Mark Gladden, Director, ACES Development
- Mick O'Neill, Professor and Jose Fernandez Chair, Plant and Environmental Sciences based at the Agricultural Science Center – Farmington

Invited Speakers

- Amy O'Neill, Director, Court Appointed Special Advocates (KASA) Program
- Renee Pablo, Director, Soil Research and Testing Laboratory, Navajo Agricultural Products Industry (NAPI)
- Martina Murray, Agronomist, Navajo Agricultural Products Industry (NAPI)

Primary funding for the NMSU SLW was provided by Linda Stout. During the inaugural year, an additional commitment was provided by Dr. O’Neill via the Jose Fernandez Memorial Chair in Crop Production. A smaller commitment was provided by the College of Agriculture, Consumer and Environmental Sciences.

SLW-AWARD Field Trip to Farmington

The African women, along with Las Cruces instructors, traveled to Farmington where they presented seminars, visited San Juan College, the NMSU Agricultural Science Center and a local Trading Post, and had a delightful dinner at St. Clair Winery & Bistro.
Name: Justina Harvey  
Location: Shiprock, NM  
College: San Juan College at Farmington, NM  
Department: Horticulture  
Academic goals: Complete A.S. degree and may pursue a B.S.  
Career goal: Undecided and will let fate determine a future.  
Life goal: Connect with family and raise my three children.  
Research Project: Evaluation of hybrid poplar tree diameter growth rates under four irrigation treatments.

Name: Zena Archie  
Location: Cortez, CO  
College: New Mexico State University at Las Cruces, NM  
Department: Plant and Environmental Sciences  
Academic goals: Complete B.S. degree and pursue higher degrees.  
Career goal: Enter into the Peace Corps program.  
Life goal: Conduct research and teach in the Environmental Sciences.  
Research Project: Evaluation of growth and development of winter canola for northwestern New Mexico.

Name: Faith Benally  
Location: Albuquerque, NM  
College: Diné College at Shiprock, NM  
Department: Environmental Sciences  
Academic goals: Complete A.S. Degree and pursue higher degrees.  
Career goal: Work as a science teacher on the Navajo Reservation.  
Life goal: Help my community using the acquired education.

The 2011 Interns from Diné College, San Juan College, and New Mexico State University
Name: Seth Fulfer
Location: Forth Worth, TX
College: San Juan College at Farmington, NM
Department: Horticulture
Academic goals: Complete A.S. and B.S. in Horticulture.
Career goal: Establish a pecan orchard in Cleburne, TX.
Life goal: Develop horticulture endeavors for future generations.
Research Project: "High Production Out of Small Scale Farms: One Acre at a Time".
Peace Corps Fellows: Austin Moore presents a seminar during Peace Corps week; Juliette Enfield harvests lettuce in her hoop-house research project.

Honor Student and Aggies Go Global participant, Owen Cortner, collects water harvesting data from small-scale farmers in Rwanda.

Graduate student, Racheal Jones and Co-Advisor Dr. Sam Fernald, work on project to develop a drought index for New Mexico with the Water Resources Research Institute (WRRI).

High definition TV and sound system in conference room improved local presentations and internet video conferencing. Seth Fulfer, José Fernández Chair Intern, presents his research report in ASC-Farmington conference room.

Equipment provided through the José Fernández Chair
Publications by/with Mick O’Neill while José Fernández Chair (2010-2013)

**Crop Release**


**Book Chapter & Book**


**Journal Articles, Reports, and Proceedings**

**2013**


2012
http://aces.nmsu.edu/pubs/research/agronomy/BL804.pdf


Lauriault, Leonard, Ian Ray, Chris Pierce, Robert Flynn, Mick O’Neill, Tom Place, and John Idowu. 2011. The 2010 New Mexico Alfalfa Variety Test Report. Agricultural Experiment Station Variety Test Reports. Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service. New Mexico State University. Las Cruces, NM. 


http://www.springerlink.com/content/y73123244h3831h1/fulltext.pdf.

http://aces.nmsu.edu/pubs/variety_trials/10cornsorghum.pdf.


2010


A sincere note of appreciation to the faculty, staff, students, and interns who provided a working environment for me to effectively meet the aspirations envisioned by José Fernández and his family who made this possible.
WOW, what a trip!!!

I want to thank all those mentioned in text and/or photos, plus all the many others who contributed to my tenure as the José Fernández Memorial Chair in Crop Production. It has truly been a honor and a memorable experience.
Where to go from here???