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# SAM STEEL WAY

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL, CONSUMER AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES » SPRING 2017



**F**uture Aggies gathered for a signing day ceremony at NMSU's College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences March 31. Dozens of high school seniors were congratulated and welcomed to the college during the event, which was similar to events celebrating athletic letters of intent. Speaking to the students, their friends and families were College of ACES Dean Rolando Flores, Associate Dean Jerry Hawkes and New Mexico Secretary of Agriculture Jeff Witte.

## NMSU rodeo

A dozen Aggies qualify for national rodeo

» DARRELL PEHR

Members of the New Mexico State University men's and women's rodeo team had an outstanding season, with 12 team members qualifying for this year's College National Finals Rodeo in Casper, Wyoming.

One team member, Nicole Sweazea, qualified in two events: goat tying and team roping.

### The qualifiers and their events include:

**Kody Gregory** – bareback riding  
**Chace Valdez** – tie-down roping  
**Ty Anderson** – tie-down roping  
**Josh Davison** – saddle bronc riding  
**Nicole Sweazea** – goat tying and team roping  
**Arianna Assini** – goat tying  
**Wyatt Lindsay** – steer wrestling  
**Wyatt Journey** – steer wrestling  
**Lucas MacKenzie** – team roping  
**Carl Sweazea** – team roping  
**NaLynn Cline** – barrel racing  
**Anna Barker** – barrel racing

This year's College National Finals Rodeo is set for June 9-17 in Casper. The top three students in each event, and top two men's and women's teams from the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association's 11 regions qualified for the CNFR.

The CNFR is the premier event in college rodeo, where the NIRA crowns individual event champions in saddle bronc riding, bare back riding, bull riding, tie-down roping, steer wrestling, team roping, barrel racing, breakaway roping and goat tying.

Student contestants compete all year in one of the NIRA's 11 regions for a chance to rope or ride at the CNFR. NMSU competes in NIRA's Grand Canyon region.



## FROM THE DEAN

# Open Conversations with Results

» DEAN ROLANDO A. FLORES

THE COLLEGE OF ACES HAS been my home since August 2016. Since then we have had a number of open conversations among faculty, students and staff, as well as with our alumni and constituents. The objective of the in-house conversations has been to share what we each do so we can forge more collaborations and maximize the use of our resources. On the other hand, the focus of the community listening sessions has been to gather insight into what New Mexicans need the college to work on.

Our goal is to positively impact the economic and community development of New Mexico by focusing our efforts on the following pillars: Water Use and Conservation, Food and Fiber Production and Marketing, Environmental Stewardship and Health of New Mexicans.

With that in mind, our academic, research and Cooperative Extension faculty and staff design their programs and services. In the area of academics, we provide high-quality education with our award-winning faculty to more than 1,518 students via 22 bachelor's degree programs — 14 of which are offered nowhere else in New Mexico — nine master's programs and three doctoral.

In the area of research, a team of experts throughout the college and the Agricultural Experiment Station (AES) system is dedicated to finding answers that can help sustain agriculture and conserve our natural resources, enhance economic and

community development, create value-added opportunities and invest in our people. Over 50 faculty/staff received new grant funds in 2016 via the Office of Grants and Contracts for over \$3.4 million.

Under Extension, research-based solutions are shared. Extension provides expertise in agriculture and natural resources, family and consumer issues, health and youth development, and community economic growth. In a given year, our Extension system reaches more than 650,000 New Mexicans and involves over 10,000 volunteers. Additionally, CES sought and received new grant funds in the amount of \$3.5 million.

As we use science to educate producers, consumers and the public about a variety of issues, we need to be listening and working very closely with them. Our job is to respond to the needs that our stakeholders have. We also need to increase our efforts on retention and recruitment so more students benefit from our outstanding faculty, at the same time that we intensify our efforts in getting scholarship opportunities.

We invite you to be part of these exciting times by sharing your wonderful ACES Aggies experiences with people in your community so they too can have their college degree, or further their careers by attending graduate school.

Do you want to join in? Let's have a conversation.



# A love for the college

## Elizabeth Crabb retires after 20 years of service to ACES deans

» JANE MOORMAN

**A** BOOKSHELF FULL OF books and many projects await Elizabeth Crabb's retirement from the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences on Aug. 31.

As the Assistant to the Dean, Crabb has served four deans – Jerry Schickedanz, Lowell Catlett, Jim Libbin and, now, Rolando A. Flores – during her 22 years at New Mexico State University.

She joined the College of ACES family in 1997 after two years at the student health center.

"Tim Nesbitt hired me in the business and resource planning department," she said. "I worked for him for two years before Dean Schickedanz's assistant retired and he brought me over on a temporary basis to help out. I've been here ever since."

"I hired Elizabeth many years ago and she had the stamina to train three deans before she retires," Schickedanz said. "Congratulations on a well-deserved retirement after a productive career as a dean's 'right arm.'"

One of the first things Crabb noticed when transferring to the college was the friendliness of the faculty and staff.

"This college is people-oriented," Crabb said. "It is a family and they treat you like

you're family. I have loved working for and serving this college."

"The ACES College is well-known for its friendly, helpful staff, and Elizabeth's precision, productivity and deep institutional knowledge have supported this reputation for decades," Flores said.

It has been Crabb's philosophy that if someone comes to the dean's office asking for help or information she will do what it takes to help.

"With her long experience in ACES, she can solve problems for everyone, from students to faculty to clientele and this is a lifesaver for the new dean – me!" Flores said.

Crabb's enjoyment of her job has included working with the departments, associate deans, faculty and staff, and students.

"I truly cannot imagine what being on the dean's team for the last eight or nine years would have been like without Elizabeth," said Jim Libbin, former interim dean and associate dean of academics. "She has been a very important team member."

Catlett recalls, "If something needed to be done, all you had to do was ask Elizabeth and it would get done and most of the time the ask was unnecessary as she was always on top of issues. No matter how unpleasant a task or issue, Elizabeth faced the problem head on with no thought on how it would affect her,



but rather how it impacted the college."

Retirement will give Crabb an opportunity to do the hobbies she enjoys.

"I have a whole lot of projects that I've put aside because of the hours at work," she said. "I'm going to try to finish my projects."

Her entire family is excited she is retiring. "Now when my kids call that they need help with my grandkids, I get to go," she said of her four grandchildren ages 6-13.

"The grandkids are involved in so many activities – music, theater, sports, horses," she said. "There's going to be a lot of activities I can go to during the week that I have missed because of work."

## Message from Your Ambassador



**H**ello, my name is Dillon Martinez, and I am majoring in wildlife science. I am also the first in my family to attend college. Being the youngest of five, there was an enormous amount of pressure from my family to succeed and not let them down.

NMSU's College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences was my first choice for schooling because it was the best fit for my educational needs. Before coming to ACES, I never knew the possibilities that the college would provide me.

The College of ACES has become a second family for me, and it has allowed me to grow as a student and a person. I quickly learned the College of ACES is truly a home away from home.

Becoming an ACES Ambassador has been the greatest experience yet. Being on this team has made me realize it isn't just a team, it is also a family where everyone wants nothing but success for those on the team. Because of this team, I am able to travel the state and share my story of first being scared to attend college to now being a voice for the college that I have come to love so much.

I am truly excited to see what this new year has to offer as well as meet new people and make new friends. I'm ecstatic to be a part of NMSU, and I am honored to be a representative of this amazing college.

» DILLON MARTINEZ

# The word on weevils

## Extension experts target pecan weevils with identification, education

» KRISTIE GARCIA

**T**HE COLLEGE OF ACES' Cooperative Extension Service is working with the New Mexico Department of Agriculture to identify pecan weevil – and pecan weevil-damaged nuts – and to educate the public in eastern New Mexico where the pest has affected some pecan trees in residential areas and commercial orchards.

NMSU Extension Plant Sciences Entomologists Jane Pierce and Carol Sutherland, along with NMSU county Extension agents, have been very involved in identification of pecan weevils and weevil larvae damage to nuts. NMSU Extension specialists and staff have also developed and disseminated educational material and have assisted with on-site visits.

A fact sheet entitled “Pecan Weevil: Wanted DEAD, Not Alive” is available on the NMSU

College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences website at [http://aces.nmsu.edu/pubs/\\_circulars/CR683.pdf](http://aces.nmsu.edu/pubs/_circulars/CR683.pdf). The fact sheet describes pecan weevil, its life cycle and the many problems it creates for New Mexico pecan producers, from backyard to large-scale commercial growers.

While pecan weevil adults will not emerge from the soil until later in the summer, people who suspect pecan weevil in their pecan trees should contact their local county CES office:

- **Eddy County:** Woods Houghton, 575-887-6595, [whoughto@nmsu.edu](mailto:whoughto@nmsu.edu)
- **Lea County:** Wayne Cox, 575-396-2819, [hwcox@nmsu.edu](mailto:hwcox@nmsu.edu)
- **Chaves County:** Sandra Barraza 575-622-3210, [sbarraza@nmsu.edu](mailto:sbarraza@nmsu.edu)
- **Curry County:** Patrick Kircher (Roosevelt CES) 575-356-4417, [pkircher@nmsu.edu](mailto:pkircher@nmsu.edu)



FEMALE PECAN WEEVIL

CES agents will continue to take calls from both the public and pecan producers in their counties and have disseminated information about this economically significant pest. The agents will continue to do this for the next several years as the pecan weevil infestation eventually is eradicated by NMDA.

## Faculty Spotlight: Sharon Bartley

» ADRIANA M. CHÁVEZ

**S**haron Bartley is an assistant professor and director of Family and Consumer Sciences Education in the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences. Bartley has been at New Mexico State University for eight years, and is also the faculty adviser for the Association of Family & Consumer Sciences at NMSU.

### **Q.: How did you become interested in Family and Consumer Sciences?**

**A.:** I took Family and Consumer Sciences courses in middle school and just loved all the variety of the curriculum and the hands-on practicality of what I learned, so I knew from seventh grade that Family and Consumer Sciences was the major for me.

### **Q.: What has been your proudest professional achievement?**

**A.:** Seeing all my students do so well and achieve their goals. I have former students at the University of Tennessee, Carson-Taylor University and Middle Tennessee State, to

name a few. And my proudest achievements are all those teachers out there teaching critical life skills to their Family and Consumer Sciences students.

### **Q.: Please tell us a little more about the Association of Family & Consumer Sciences at NMSU.**

**A.:** For more than 100 years, the American Association of Family & Consumer Sciences (AAFCS) has provided leadership and support to professionals whose work assists individuals, families and communities in making informed decisions about their well-being, relationships and resources to achieve optimal quality of life.

AAFCS is the only professional association for Family and Consumer Sciences students and professionals from both multiple practice settings and content areas.

Our student organization at NMSU is the Association of Family and Consumer Sciences, and I have been the adviser

since I came here.

We are extremely active, focusing on service projects for the community such as Cowboys for Cancer Research and Jardin de los Niños. This semester we are fundraising to send our members to the AAFCS 108th national conference, this year in Dallas at the end of June. Seven students have signed up to attend, and we are close to our goal to fund their trip.

### **Q.: What is the most rewarding aspect of your profession?**

**A.:** By far the most rewarding aspect of my profession is helping students reach their goals. My students are the very best on this campus, and working with them is a joy and a pleasure.



# Outstanding Alumni Award

## Dean Rolando A. Flores honored by alma mater Kansas State University

» DARRELL J. PEHR

**A** **S AN ENGINEER AND SCIENTIST IN GRAIN** processing, New Mexico State University's Rolando A. Flores, dean of the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences, has been selected to receive the Kansas State University Department of Grain Science and Industry's Outstanding Alumni Award.

"This award recognizes Grain Science alumni who have made a significant positive impact on or contribution to the field of grain science," said Gordon Smith, professor and head of Grain Science and Industry at KSU. Smith said the award "represents the values and mission of the department on behalf of our alumni, faculty, staff and students."

"The faculty, staff and students of the Grain Science and Industry department take great pride in the accomplishments and contributions of our alumni," Smith said. "Dean Flores' impact on our industry not only positively reflects but also extends and enhances the visibility and reputation of our department."

Flores received the award at the Grain Science and Industry Student and Industry Awards Banquet on April 20 at KSU. The event also highlighted the awards and scholarships received by the department's students, faculty and staff at the banquet.

"For me, the award means a lot," Flores said. "First of all, it's my alma mater. I did work on my dissertation there and I later taught grain science and was involved in their international grain program. This recognition is very rewarding. Also, it's a very strong recognition for our college and very prestigious for NMSU. It's a great recognition from the only formal grain science program in the U.S."

Flores earned his Ph.D. in Grain Science at KSU in 1989, becoming one of only six Ph.D.s in grain milling in the world at the time. His areas of research included processing systems simulation, economic feasibility studies of processing operations, product quality and heat and temperature movement in stored grain.

Flores' career was heavily influenced by his time at KSU, which included several professional posts.

## Reaching out

### ACES creating partnership to offer classes at Zuni Pueblo

» JANE MOORMAN

**T** **HE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL,** Consumer and Environmental Sciences is embarking on a new outreach effort to offer academic classes to Native American communities.

"We want to interact more with our Native American partners," said Jerry Hawkes, interim associate dean of academics. "To do this we are creating a formal relationship with Zuni Pueblo's A:shiwi College and Career Readiness Center to offer classes to the tribal members."

College of ACES Dean Rolando Flores strongly believes in reaching out to Native American communities and community colleges to project the importance of agriculture in the state.

"For NMSU, as the land-grant university in New Mexico, it is not only our duty but a source of great satisfaction to develop agriculture across the state, increase its productivity and make it accessible to all New Mexicans," Flores said.

Hawkes is working with Hayes Lewis, director of A:shiwi College, to establish the memorandum of understanding in which ACES will deliver classes to students in Zuni.

"Every department in our college, every major, can have an impact on a demand in their community," Hawkes said. "There is clearly a demand for family and consumer science through their programs, and hotel, restaurant, and tourism management in their business structure."

A:shiwi College and Career Readiness Center has been working to establish a location where students can access programs from

a variety of higher education institutions either through online or face-to-face delivery.

Because NMSU has the only agricultural college in New Mexico, that will be the first area established in the partnership.

"Agriculture in Zuni is a tradition," Lewis said.

"We have a number of tribal members trying to re-establish farming for many reasons including providing locally grown food for the community."

Lewis said one of the goals of the A:shiwi College and Career Readiness Center is to establish a school farm on approximately 20 acres near the center.

ACES will provide the scientific side of farming to enhance the traditional practices.

Hawkes credits the work of Cooperative Extension Service agent Kathy Landers in McKinley County and Extension associate Jacob Holloway at the Zuni Pueblo for opening the doors for NMSU ACES to participate in this partnership.

Both parties of the MOU are hoping to have classes available to the Zuni tribal members in the fall.





## Just do it!

### International student says people make the difference at College of ACES

» DARRELL J. PEHR

**F**OR INTERNATIONAL student Nivea Montes, a combination of factors led her to select New Mexico State University as not only her undergraduate home but her choice as the place to pursue her master's degree.

Montes, whose hometown is Valle de Allende, Chihuahua, Mexico, attended Coronado High School in El Paso.

Her major is Animal Science, with a minor in Ag-Business. She is graduating this May. So, why NMSU?

"I wanted to get a degree in something related to agriculture and at the same time I wanted to stay close to home, so I chose NMSU as my university because of these factors," Montes said. "I stayed because of the people."

Montes said the people who stand out in her years at the college include Chadelle Robinson, Neil Burcham, Kristy Mason and Shannon Norris.

"They are the ones who pushed me and helped me to get involved and achieve all of the things I wanted to when I got here," Montes said.

Montes said the two most important experiences in her time at NMSU include being part of the ACES Ambassadors and a member of the National Agri-Marketing Association (NAMA) team.

For Montes, the connection with the college will only get stronger in the coming years.

"I am planning to get a master's degree here at NMSU in Ag-Business and work

at the university at the same time," Montes said. "After that, I would like to stay in the United States and work with something related to the importation/exportation of agricultural products between Mexico and the U.S."

For prospective students, Montes does not hesitate in her recommendation.

"My advice would be DO IT!" she said. "The environment is welcoming and the opportunities are endless. Also, I would tell them to make sure they get involved in clubs or organizations that they feel passionate about. I would tell them to go to classes and try to do well in school, but to take all the opportunities that could come their way."

## REMEMBRANCES

# Regents Professor

‘Doc’ Hallford guided his students, research projects for 41 years

» JANE MOORMAN

**N**EW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY’S National Top 20 animal science professor Dennis “Doc” Hallford passed away Dec. 13, 2016, after a lengthy illness.

He is survived by his wife, Marilyn, daughter and son-in-law, Amy and Brian Kord, and granddaughters, Shelby and Sophie, all of Las Cruces. A memorial service honoring his life was held in January 2017.

“Doc” retired from the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences in June 2016 after 41 years of teaching, research and service to the agricultural industry.

He served as supervisor of the West Sheep Unit and the Endocrinology Lab, was chair of the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee for 25 years, member and chair of the Radiation Safety Committee for 32 years, on numerous departmental, college, university and professional committees.

He served as adviser to 62 graduate students and was author or co-author of over 600 refereed journal articles, proceedings and abstracts on endocrine influences on reproductive functions in domestic animals, particularly sheep.

Among his numerous honors were NMSU Regents Professor and Distinguished Achievement Professor, Donald C. Roush Award for Excellence in Teaching, the Research Council’s Outstanding Researcher honor and Award for Exceptional Achievement in Creative Scholarly Activity.

The Who’s Who Among American Teachers recipient received the Cardinal Key Honor Society’s Outstanding Teacher of the Year in only his second year at the university. During his career he received ACES distinguished teacher, research and service awards and a host of other distinguished teaching awards.

“Doc” was a graduate of Abilene Cooper High School and Tarleton State University in Stephenville, Texas, where he earned his degree in general agriculture.

After teaching one year at Tarleton, he married his college sweetheart, Marilyn Williams, and earned his master’s and doctorate degrees in animal science at Oklahoma State University.

“Doc” was named Outstanding Alumni from the College of Agriculture at Tarleton State University, and the Oklahoma State University Department of Animal Sciences’ Advanced Degree Graduate of Distinction.

## A life of service

Eastman served the university from 1968–2000

» JANE MOORMAN

**C**LYDE EASTMAN DIED FEB. 4, 2017, AT THE age of 80 after a life filled with service to humanity throughout the world.

Clyde joined the faculty at New Mexico State University on July 1, 1968, and retired Feb. 1, 2000. He taught courses in sociology and world food security and conducted research in rural development issues across New Mexico. He considered the two years that he served as chair of the NMSU Faculty Senate to be one of the highlights of his professional career.

Clyde graduated from a one-room rural school in 1950, from Corydon High School in Iowa in 1954 and from Iowa State University in 1958. He also earned a master of science degree from the University of Hawaii and a doctorate from Cornell University.

Clyde was a sociologist and a lifelong student of cultures. He served with International Voluntary Service in Vietnam from 1959 to 1961. He worked with North Carolina State University on an agricultural development project in Puno, Peru, from 1963 to 1965.

After joining NMSU he lived with his family and worked in The Gambia and Jordan, and did short-term assignments in several other countries.

He continued to travel after his retirement. He and his wife, Wanda, visited their daughters in Africa, Europe and Central America, and traveled throughout the world. Accompanying Wanda during her Fulbright sabbatical fulfilled a long-held dream to live for a time in Japan.

Clyde was also active in the community serving seven years on Mesilla’s Planning, Zoning and Historical Review Commission. He began attending the Unitarian Universalist Church of Las Cruces and served on the board of trustees for 12 years including two as Congregation President. He also attended the Zen Center for a number of years. He was an active member in several other community and professional organizations.

Clyde was united in marriage to Kathleen Pearl Sampson on Feb. 14, 1978, and to this union three daughters were born: Kristin Kahala, Evadne Elise and Chelsea. He was united in marriage to Wanda Ava Morgan on July 6, 2002, after a courtship of five years. Wanda brought two daughters, Sara Elizabeth and Holly Robin, to the family.

## SAM STEEL WAY

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# Outstanding graduate

## Range Science student will pursue master's in College of ACES

» ADRIANA M. CHÁVEZ

**G**ROWING UP IN the oil fields of West Texas, Sean Perry Di Stéfano loved hiking with her mother, a botanist, and learning about native plants. That love of hiking and the outdoors morphed into time spent volunteering at Big Bend Ranch State Park in Texas on salt cedar control.

Di Stéfano's interest in range science brought her to New Mexico State University in order to study under professor Laurie Abbott, who died last year, and Di Stéfano's success has grown since enrolling at NMSU. Di Stéfano

was named Fall 2016 Outstanding Graduate for the College of ACES, and is continuing on at NMSU as a graduate student and assistant in range science.

Since her freshman year, she has worked as Jason Karl's research aide at the USDA ARS Jornada Experimental Range. She has demonstrated leadership abilities as an officer in the Range Club and through mentoring other students in the department.

Di Stéfano said she decided to pursue her graduate studies here because of the Range Science faculty and the Jornada

Experimental Range, where she works as a student assistant.

"With their help, I'm able to pursue my passion for reclamation from oil and gas," Di Stéfano said. "In addition, the unique partnership between the Jornada and NMSU allows me to work at a top research facility in my field that helps me cultivate the skills I need to pursue a career in research."

Di Stéfano described the College of ACES as "a great community that values and believes in the future of agriculture and prepares students to answer the world's pressing problems."

