

Ag modernization

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College leads research in unique collaboration
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SAM STEEL WAY

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL, CONSUMER AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES » FALL 2018



Hands-on learning. Student success is an everyday priority of the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences. These students in the Department of Animal and Range Sciences learn about equine anatomy, just one of the wide variety of student learning and research opportunities for which the college is known. Modernization of some of the college's agricultural facilities is the focus of the GO Bond election set for Nov. 6. See more inside on Page 3.

PHOTO: ANDRES LEIGHTON

Upcoming Events

2018 Homecoming

Thursday, Oct. 4

2 p.m. – ACES Door Decorating Contest

4 p.m. – ACES Sam Steel Branding Ceremony (Gerald Thomas Hall, inside tent by windmill)

Friday, Oct. 5

8 a.m. – Homecoming Recognition Breakfast (Gerald Thomas Hall, inside tent by windmill)

4-7 p.m. – Homecoming Happy Hour hosted by HRTM and Sam Steel Society (100 West Café)

Saturday, Oct. 6

9 a.m. – Celebration of Traditions Memorial Ceremony (Trader's Plaza and Aggie Memorial Tower)

10 a.m. – Homecoming Parade (University Avenue)

4 p.m. – Alumni and Friends Tailgate (NE entrance Aggie Memorial Stadium, grass lot between football office and the locker rooms)

6 p.m. – Football game, NMSU Aggies vs. Liberty University Flames

2018 Ag Day

Saturday, Oct. 20

Noon-4 p.m. – More than 50 booths with live animals, educational exhibits, games and New Mexico food to sample. Sponsored by College of ACES and New Mexico Department of Agriculture. (Pan American Center parking lot)

HRTM 30th Anniversary Celebration

Tuesday, Nov. 27

6 p.m. – Salud! De Mesilla Restaurant. A celebration of 30 years of hospitality education at NMSU.

Sam Steel Pinning Ceremony

Friday, Dec. 7

3 p.m. – Atkinson Recital Hall/ NMSU Music Center

Sam Steel Society Ceremony Alumni Reception

Friday, Dec. 7

5 p.m. – Gerald Thomas Hall, 100 West Café

For more information, check out the news and events on the Sam Steel Society page at aces.nmsu.edu/samsteel/samsteelsociety

FROM THE DEAN

Agricultural modernization: a must to New Mexico's future

» DEAN ROLANDO A. FLORES



Dean Rolando Flores and Chancellor Dan Arvizu at the 2018 Clovis Agricultural Science Center field day in August.

IN THE LAST ISSUE OF THIS magazine, you learned about an important project of the college, NMSU and the state: the Agricultural Modernization and Educational Facilities-2018 General Obligation Bond D. In this column, I want to remind you of its significance. Another topic I want to cover relates to the needs of agriculture in the 21st century. Lastly, I will discuss the rationale behind the revision of the college's strategic plan and how you can be involved.

For GO Bond D, NMSU requested from the NM Legislature \$25 million to plan, design, demolish, renovate and construct agricultural and educational facilities at NMSU-Las Cruces. These modern facilities will lift NMSU, New Mexico's agriculture, and related industries to higher levels and provide faculty and students with better tools and technology. On Nov. 6, voters will have the chance to increase educational opportunities for students and contribute to economic growth, thus improving the lives of New Mexicans. All without increasing taxes. You can find GO Bond D testimonial videos at http://aces.nmsu.edu/go_bond.

Why are we discussing the modernization of agriculture? Because we face challenges related to water management and adaptation to low/high salinity crops, a reduction in the

ag labor pool coupled with aging farmers, traditional ag operations in need of technological advances, few value-added businesses, low consumer agriculture literacy, and the pressures and demands of a global market.

The need to deal with those challenges now and in the future requires well-trained professionals in a number of disciplines, as proposed by the recent report Science Breakthroughs to Advance Food and Agricultural Research by 2030 for which NMSU President John D. Flores was co-chair.

Agriculture and food processing are a central part of New Mexico's economy, accounting for about \$4 billion in sales and generating nearly \$11 billion of New Mexico's gross state product and 51,000 jobs. As the only college of agriculture in the state, we take very seriously our mission of being an engine for economic and community development. To continue contributing to bettering the lives of New Mexicans we need a solid strategic plan to guide our efforts and help us measure our impact.

For the next six months, a committee of college faculty and staff will work on revising our strategic plan. We seek our stakeholders' input so the plan reflects the reality of New Mexico. We strive to capture that reality through our daily work in each county, and through the annual listening sessions NM Secretary of Agriculture Jeff Witte and I conduct in different regions of New Mexico, but that needs to be complemented with continual feedback from the public. See the article on page 6 about it.

We count on you to be BOLD and shape the future in a positive way, as the college does through its academic, research, and extension arms to better the lives of all New Mexicans. Thank you for your financial contributions to scholarships funds and GO Bond D, for volunteering your time, and for advocating on behalf of the college.

Go Aggies!

GO Bond D on November ballot to build, renovate NMSU facilities

» MINERVA BAUMANN

MORE THAN \$31 million in capital outlay projects will be on the ballot for the New Mexico State University system as part of over \$128 million in proposed general obligation bonds for aging buildings at universities and colleges across the state. The funding is part of the General Obligation Bond D for higher education projects.

There is no tax increase associated with these bonds.

If approved by voters in November, \$25 million is planned for the modernization of agricultural modernization and educational facilities at the Las Cruces campus. Renovation and modernization is planned for the Food Science Security and Safety Facility, the Biomedical Research Center, and the Animal Nutrition and Feed Manufacturing Facility.

“These are not just investments in our critical infrastructure, these are investments in our students and the future of New Mexico,” said NMSU Chancellor Dan Arvizu. “In addition to providing a world-class education to our students, NMSU partners with industry, government agencies and the community to conduct vital research and train the workforce of tomorrow. Passage of this year’s GO Bond will allow us to continue this vital work.”

Agriculture and food processing are an important part of New Mexico’s economy, accounting for about \$4 billion in sales. NMSU is poised to be an international



leader in food protection initiatives to promote food safety in New Mexico and the region. The Food Science Security and Safety Laboratory supports teaching in the processing of locally produced agricultural products resulting in economic gain for New Mexico producers and allied industries. The Biomedical Research Center includes accommodations for researchers and students in diverse fields across NMSU.

Additional benefits include enhanced safety for students and employees as well as encouraging student involvement in research.

“By supporting the GO Bond D in November’s election, voters will be increasing educational opportunities and contributing to economic growth, thus improving the lives of New Mexicans,” said Rolando A. Flores, dean of NMSU’s College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences. “These modern facilities will lift NMSU, New Mexico’s agriculture and related industries, to higher

levels because they will provide faculty and students with better tools and technology.”

The GO Bond D for higher education also includes a total of \$6.2 million in infrastructure upgrades, renovations and construction for Dona Ana Community College, NMSU Alamogordo, NMSU Carlsbad and NMSU Grants.

The GO Bond for libraries, which includes more than \$12 million for eligible academic libraries, is also on the ballot. The NMSU Library and all NMSU community college libraries benefit from these funds.

The last day to register to vote is Tuesday, Oct. 9. Early voting begins on Tuesday, Oct. 9 at the county courthouse, with convenience centers opening Saturday, Oct. 20 and the election on Tuesday, Nov. 6. General Obligation bonds come before the voters of New Mexico every two years to support projects throughout the state.

For more information on the GO Bond, visit gobond.nmsu.edu and aces.nmsu.edu/go_bond.



Message from Your Ambassador

My name is Stacy Sutherlin. I grew up in Aztec, New Mexico, and am a sophomore majoring in AgriBusiness and Economics.

I was raised around agriculture and chose to attend New Mexico State University and the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences because of the great things that I had heard about the faculty.

Since coming to NMSU, I haven’t gone a day that I wasn’t overwhelmed by the kind and welcoming attitudes of the faculty. I am so excited to serve as an ambassador this year, and to share my experience with prospective students.

The college of ACES is truly my home away from home. Go Aggies!

NMSU ACES assistant professor to debut diabetic-friendly cookbook

» ADRIANA M. CHÁVEZ

KELLEY COFFEEN, an assistant professor in the Clothing, Textiles & Fashion Merchandising program and cookbook author, is releasing a new cookbook featuring diabetic-friendly recipes.

“Tex-Mex Diabetes Cooking: More than 140 Authentic Southwestern Favorites” was published by the American Diabetes Association and features healthier versions of Tex-Mex favorites such as enchiladas, burritos, tacos and queso dip.

“My mom was diagnosed with diabetes, so our family really had to learn how to be patient and thoughtful in determining what she could eat and how to prepare it,” Coffeen said. “She loved Tex-Mex cuisine but there weren’t many resources, so good recipes and planning became powerful tools. I think that’s the biggest gift to give to someone in your family who has diabetes, not make them feel like they’re a burden.”

Coffeen said her latest collection of recipes are low carb, low fat and low calorie with authentic flavors. Every one of the 140 recipes are within the guidelines of the American Diabetes Association.

According to New Mexico’s Indicator-Based Information System, diabetes prevalence has steadily increased in New Mexico and the U.S. over the past 20 years. In 2016, the crude (non-age-adjusted) prevalence of diagnosed diabetes among New Mexico adults was 11.5 percent.

Along with healthier versions of Tex-Mex favorites, Coffeen’s cookbook contains tips on how to make dietary changes that will help diabetics following the American Diabetes Association guidelines easier.

“Low calorie and low fat dairy products are really important. Lean meats and protein are very helpful for your tacos and burritos,” Coffeen said. “Also, you can add fiber-filled volume to enchiladas, tortas and burrito bowls, just about anything. Really pile it high with chopped vegetables and fresh greens, and make it really flavorful. You can add flavor with salsas, which are just more vegetables.”

Coffeen also recommends making your own tortilla chips by baking them with cooking spray instead of frying them in oil. “Little tricks like that I think really help,” Coffeen said. Coffeen’s cookbook is available at Barnes & Noble and Amazon.



Kelley Coffeen, an assistant professor in the Clothing, Textiles & Fashion Merchandising program and cookbook author, is releasing a new cookbook featuring diabetic-friendly recipes. “Tex-Mex Diabetes Cooking: More than 140 Authentic Southwestern Favorites” was published by the American Diabetes Association and features healthier versions of Tex-Mex favorites such as enchiladas, burritos, tacos and tres leches cake.

Distinguished Alumnus ties success to preparation at NMSU

» ANGEL MENDEZ

Rance Miles, a graduate of the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences, is making a big name for himself in the dairy industry and he’s thanking NMSU for making that possible and for helping to create a path to his success.

Miles graduated from NMSU in 1980 with a bachelor’s degree. To get through school he worked as a livestock feeder on a campus farm, working 20 hours a week for just \$2.75 per hour. He acknowledged how much easier it was to work like that back then, but that it wouldn’t be so easy today.

“I was able to take care of my living expenses with that job in the late 1970s. I sure couldn’t do that today,” Miles said.

Today, Miles is the Chief Financial Officer and Chief Operating Officer of Select Milk Producers, Inc., a company that was started from scratch after Miles spent 20 years in the banking and finance field. It was during that time when he met his future two partners who would help launch this dairy company. The company has multiple sites and more than \$2 billion in annual revenue. Select Milk Producers, Inc., prides themselves on bringing consumers high quality milk and keeping their animals’ care and comfort a top priority.

Being in the work force, Miles understands the role his education and degree played in helping him to achieve everything that he has accomplished thus far. To give back to the university that helped to pave

the way for his success, Miles gives talks on campus to current students and supports different scholarship funds.

“It is only after you graduate and get well into your professional life that you realize and appreciate the value and significance of your NMSU college education,” Miles said. “It will stack up against any other college in the U.S., and it will open many doors and carry you far.”



NMSU joins forces with two institutions to improve forest restoration

» JANE MOORMAN

IN NEW MEXICO'S NORTHERN FOREST, A GROUP of foresters have organized the Forest Restoration Triangle, a collaboration of New Mexico State University's John T. Harrington Forestry Research Center at Mora, the forestry program at New Mexico Highlands University in Las Vegas, and the New Mexico Forest and Watershed Restoration Institute, housed at NMHU.

"Our mission is to work together to restore proper ecological functions and ecosystem services in the forest landscape in New Mexico and the greater southwestern United States," said Owen Burney, NMSU assistant professor and superintendent of the Mora research center.

NMSU is providing the research leg of the triangle with the only program in the Southwest that focuses on forest nursery technologies, tree improvement and eco-physiology of young forest trees to facilitate ecological restoration and commercial reforestation.

NMHU is the academic side that is preparing the future foresters of the Southwest for the task of restoring the millions of forest acres that have been destroyed since 2000 when the frequency and intensity of forest wildland fires began increasing.

The two higher education institutions are sharing facilities and equipment to strengthen their programs. NMSU is using Highlands' wet chemistry lab facilities, while NMHU students gain hands-on experience at NMSU's nursery facility.

NMFWRI connects the two sides of the triangle with its statewide effort that engages government agencies, academic and research institutions, land managers and the interested public in the areas of forest and watershed management.

Each member of the triangle sees great opportunity for collaboration in the future that will benefit the forests of New Mexico, which covers a third of the state.



Three New Mexico institutions have formed the Forest Restoration Triangle, a collaboration to help forest restoration. From left, Blanca Cespedes, forestry assistant professor at New Mexico Highlands University in Las Vegas, N.M., Owen Burney, New Mexico State University assistant professor and superintendent of the John T. Harrington Forestry Research Center at Mora, and Kent Reid, New Mexico Forest and Watershed Restoration Institute housed at New Mexico Highlands University.

Estate gift to benefit HRTM wine, beverage programs

» CARLOS ANDRES LOPEZ

Marion L. Lawrence, a longtime supporter of the School of Hotel, Restaurant and Tourism Management at New Mexico State University, has finalized plans to leave an estate gift to HRTM that will bolster the school's wine and beverage education programs.

Lawrence's estate gift will be the largest contribution of its kind to the school in its 30-year history, HTRM Director Jean Hertzman said.

Hertzman said the gift will include at least \$250,000 to establish the Marion L. Lawrence Endowed Professorship that will fund the salary of a professor dedicated to teaching courses related to wine and beverage educa-

tion. The gift also will include at least another \$25,000 to create the Marion L. Lawrence Endowed Fund for operational and maintenance costs associated with the Bobby Lee Lawrence Academy of Wine, the school's Tuscan-themed event and wine-tasting room named after Lawrence's late husband.

"This gift will allow us to have a faculty member specifically focused on wine and beverage education," Hertzman said. "Beverage is such a huge part of the hospitality industry and very much expanding, and beverage programs are one of the growth areas of hospitality education."

But, Hertzman added, "We hope we don't get this gift for a very long time."

Lawrence, who is a member of the HRTM Advisory Board, has maintained a close relationship with the school for many years, Hertzman said.

Following the death of her husband in 2010, Lawrence gave NMSU the funds to create the Bobby Lee Lawrence Academy of Wine in her husband's memory. Completed in 2012, and housed in the heart of the HRTM department in Gerald Thomas Hall, the academy features state-of-the-art wine cellars and storage facilities that hold the program's wines and a library of reference books and memorabilia from Bobby Lee Lawrence, who was known as the "Southwest Wine Guy."



ACES leadership revisions college's strategic plan

» JANE MOORMAN

THE COLLEGE OF Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences positively affects the health, economy and environment of New Mexico through four focus areas, known as the ACES Pillars – food and fiber production and marketing, water use and conservation, family development and health of New Mexicans, and environmental stewardship.

The Pillars give life to the mission of the college, which is to be an engine for the economic and community development in New Mexico. In order to fulfil the mission, a strategic plan is necessary.

“The strategic plan is fundamental for the College as it is for any organization that wants to move forward producing a substantial impact,” said Dean Rolando A. Flores. “In the case of the ACES college that impact is to the lives of New Mexicans.”

Since Flores was named dean of the college, the leadership has been gathering numerous pieces of information from departments and programs preparing for the revision of the plan.

In July, the college began a six-month process to revise the current ACES strategic plan, which was last revised in 2015.

“A subcommittee looked at our current strategic plan and agreed that the mission statement was great, but felt it was light on the evaluation of objectives of the plan and how to measure the effectiveness of our work,” said Rolston St. Hilaire, Plant and Environmental Sciences department head and chair of the strategic plan committee.

A preliminary strategic plan committee was established with the purpose of developing a timeline for completing the revisions by Jan. 15. The new committee includes representation by Extension agents and specialists, academic faculty and staff, as well as consultation with stakeholders.

One of the first tasks the committee had was to review the SWOT analysis from each department and unit in the college that listed the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats determined by a self-evaluation. These SWOT analyses were conducted at the dean's request at the end of 2016 and have been used to guide this strategic process.

“The first benchmark for the draft plan is to determine if it aligns with the NMSU Performance Metrics that are expected to be presented by Chancellor Dan Arvizu and President John Floros on Sept. 30,” St. Hilaire said. (Editor's note: Press time for the Sam Steel Way newsletter was late September, prior to the expected announcement of the NMSU Performance Metrics.)

Evaluation of objectives and how to measure the effectiveness was one of the weaknesses the committee found in the current plan.

“It did not specifically provide guidance on measuring if the college was accomplishing the objectives,” St. Hilaire said. “That's an area our committee will be looking at very closely. How are we going to evaluate the objectives that we have put in the strategic plan?”

The contributions of ACES faculty and staff will be a critical part of the process of designing the revised strategic plan.



“The strategic plan approach that we are following will extend an opportunity to everyone in the college to contribute to it in its formative stages and not just to the final product,” Flores said.

Once the draft plan is prepared it will be sent to every college department and unit, and stakeholders for feedback during October. After receiving the feedback, the committee will complete the plan in November.

An open forum will be held the first part of December in which Dean Flores and the committee will discuss the plan with ACES faculty and staff. If necessary, revisions will be made prior to the final plan being disseminated to the ACES staff and public.

“In a time of diminishing resources and increasing demands, how we allocate resources is critical, and the strategic plan will assist us with that,” Flores said.

Extension's Farm Safety program impacts 4,250 youth annually

» JANE MOORMAN

FOR MORE THAN TWO DECADES, THIRD GRADE STUDENTS in eastern New Mexico have participated each year in a safety day coordinated by New Mexico State University Cooperative Extension Service county agents.

"The children walk away from the day of hands-on activities with a greater understanding of being aware of their surroundings and staying safe," said Patrick Kircher, Roosevelt County agricultural agent.

Approximately 4,250 youth living in Union, Harding, Quay, Guadalupe, De Baca, Curry, Roosevelt, Chaves and Lea counties, including some from Texas and Oklahoma, participated in the one-day event in 2018. The events are held in Clayton, Hobbs, Clovis, Roswell and Santa Rosa.

New Mexico was one of the original sites for the program when it was developed by Progressive Agriculture magazine. Since 2002, Progressive Agriculture Safety Day has been governed by the Progressive Farmer Foundation.

"We refer to the event as Farm Safety Day, but our program is more general life safety training, general situations that the kids may encounter on a daily basis in their lives," Kircher said. "We are trying to instill awareness of the dangers involved in different situations."

Water, electricity and fire safety, and calling to 911 are some of the topics taught at the events.

"One station that is pretty neat is fire safety," Kircher said. "The fire department teaches how to put out a fire, and the kids get to use a fire extinguisher to put out a small fire."

Another topic is chemical look-a-likes where the youth are shown various household items that could be dangerous, such as flavored Tums and Smarties candy.

With decreasing public school funds, Kircher is pleased that as area school districts have limited the number of field trips, they still see the value of the Farm Safety Day and keep the day in their school calendars.



Researchers receive \$1.1 million for drought research

College of ACES Associate Professor of Range Science Amy Ganguli is leading an integrated research and Extension grant focused on agricultural resiliency in times of drought and climate variability. Ganguli and her team are working with farmers and ranchers to develop proactive short- and long-term strategies with the goal of maintaining ecological, social and economic resilience in rural communities.

This project will link land-use and land-cover dynamics to agricultural and groundwater policies and support effective land and groundwater management by co-producing knowledge using citizen science.

"Resilience-based management strategies developed through this process will be shared via Extension and outreach programs," Ganguli said. "Strategies will be informed by extensive feedback from farmers and ranchers in New Mexico, Oklahoma and Colorado. This is truly a bottom-up project."

The project spans four departments within the College of ACES and several off-campus science centers.

"This grant fits under the Four Pillars for the ACES college," said Dean Rolando Flores.

Descriptive interviews and surveys of land managers and residents across several counties in three states, along with land-use and land-cover analyses from the Southern Great Plains, will deepen understanding of how individuals make land and groundwater management decisions.

"Understanding groundwater resources and climate patterns is at the root of informed decision-making at both local and regional levels. Adding this information to baseline monitoring of precipitation and plant productivity will provide landowners with the materials they need to make resilience-based decisions while contributing to regional and national datasets," Ganguli said.

NMSU President John Floros said this project will determine what is needed to keep

the country's future food security safe for generations to come.

"Our country's future food security needs and our ability to grow the food and agricultural sector of our economy depend on improving the efficiency, resilience and sustainability of the system," Floros said.

"In order to develop a sustainable food and agricultural system for future generations, we must learn how to manage our natural resources better and this study will help significantly."

Additional expertise for this project comes from Zeigler Geologic Consulting, the USDA Southwest Climate Hub, Oklahoma State University and the University of Oklahoma.

The project was awarded \$1.18 million from USDA and the National Institute of Food and Agriculture.



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Familiar face leads Doña Ana County Extension Office

» CARLOS ANDRES LÓPEZ

When the time came for the College of ACES to pick a new leader for its Cooperative Extension Service office in Doña Ana County, the college chose a familiar face. Teresa Dean, a longtime county Extension agent and NMSU alumna, was named program director of the Doña Ana County Extension Office in July.

Dean said she will continue to work as a livestock and 4-H agent for the office.

Dean began her career as an Extension agent in 2001 after earning a bachelor's degree in agricultural and extension education from NMSU. She first worked as a 4-H agent in the Otero County Extension Office, a position she held until October 2004.

While working in Otero County, Dean completed graduate school at NMSU and earned a master's in agricultural and extension education. Her thesis centered on job satisfaction among county agents in NMSU's Extension Service.

In November 2004, Dean joined the Socorro County Extension Office as a 4-H agent, a job she held until May 2012. By June 2012, she relocated to Las Cruces, taking a position as a livestock and 4-H livestock agent for the Doña Ana County Extension Office, where she has worked since.

In July 2018, Dean was named program director for the Doña Ana County Extension Office, replacing Karim Martinez, who left the

position in July to take a new role as the Extension Family Life and Child Development specialist in the College of ACES's Extension Family and Consumer Sciences Department.

"Changing people's lives, developing young leaders," Dean said, "and the fact that no two days are the same are what I enjoy most about being an Extension agent."

In August, Dean was awarded with the university's first Distinguished Extension Award at the fall 2018 convocation.

"I am greatly honored and humbled to be recognized by our current administration for the work and dedication I possess for the NMSU Cooperative Extension Service," she said.

