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# SAM STEEL WAY

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL, CONSUMER AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES » SPRING 2016



## Where does our food come from?

Scholarship winner tracked down origins of what we eat

» KRISTIE GARCIA

**I**F YOU WANT TO KNOW where your food comes from, just ask Heather Abeita. The senior agricultural biology major earned third place in the Animal Agriculture Alliance's College Aggies Online scholarship competition.

College students across the nation were eligible, and the competition entailed a

CONTINUED ▸

PHOTO: KARRIE LUCERO

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nine-week commitment during which contestants were required to post on social media and write blog entries weekly.

"I informed the public about where our food comes from," Abeita said. "People buy food from the grocery store, but they don't always know what the process is. I used Facebook, Instagram and Twitter to tell the truth and to show the real side of agriculture."

Her topics included the fact that hormones are illegal in the poultry industry and the fact that egg color depends on the hen's diet and not the use of genetically modified organisms.

The competition also included weekly homework and online seminars.

Not only did her posts appear on AnimalAgAlliance.org, but she earned a \$500 scholarship and two all-expenses paid trips. She had the opportunity to tour Tyson Foods in Arkansas in April, and she will travel to Washington, D.C., in May to attend the Animal Agriculture Alliance Stakeholders Summit, where she will be recognized as one of the contest winners.

Abeita started learning about agriculture at a young age. Growing up on a small farm in Isleta Pueblo, New Mexico, she began showing rabbits at the age of 8. As she grew up, she moved on to goats, lambs, pigs, steers and heifers. She judged livestock, horses and wool while in FFA and her 4-H club.

After earning a bachelor's degree, Abeita hopes to be accepted into veterinary school.

"While at NMSU, I've taken many courses, including animal science courses, that have prepared me for my future and what I plan to do as a career," she said.



FROM THE DEAN

# New Beginnings

» INTERIM DEAN JIM LIBBIN

**A**S ANOTHER ACADEMIC year draws to a close, all of us on campus are looking forward to hearing about all of the great new places and adventures our graduates are going to. And, we get to see the next group of incoming freshmen go through orientation and take those first big steps of college life—housing, ID cards, course schedules, meal plans and initial introductions to freshman mentors. Both of these major events are part of the cycle of life in a university. Saying goodbye to the graduates we have gotten to know so well in just four years (a few we had a chance to know a bit longer) is tough. Many we will not see again. All we can really do is to hope we had a positive influence on their lives and that they are going on to do the things they came to NMSU to prepare themselves to do. The bittersweet goodbyes are offset by the fresh new faces with excitement about beginning their college careers.

Similarly, we will be saying goodbye to a few faculty members who have become such a major part of the fabric of the College of ACES that it is hard to imagine that we can go on. We'll include some tributes to these individuals in our fall Sam Steel Newsletter. And, we are thrilled to add new faculty members, wondering about what great things they will accomplish in

their new NMSU careers.

The renewal of our ACES alumni association under the banner of the Sam Steel Society has had a great start—we will continue to recognize our alumni with a newly designed Sam Steel Society lapel pin that we hope to get to every one of our graduates. Although the Sam Steel Society has been around for nearly 25 years as a way to recognize our graduates on the Friday before Commencement in the Spring and Fall semesters, the idea that many more "experienced" graduates did not have the chance to participate in those ceremonies generated the idea that we need to continue to recognize the accomplishments and friendships of all of our ACES graduates. We are trying to continue to add breadth and depth to the Sam Steel name and brand in ACES. We want to build on the sense of individual ownership in your college.

If you do not yet have your Sam Steel Society pin, let us know, we'll get you one. But, better than sending you a pin, how about setting up a gathering of ACES graduates in your home area? One of the members of the college administration will join you at your gathering and induct (or re-induct) every ACES graduate we can talk into joining us for your event.

Won't that help close the loop in the great cycle of life in our college's life?

## Rebooting the Sam Steel Society

**T**he College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences is acknowledging its alumni by re-invigorating the Sam Steel Society.

The ACES academic programs team and development office are putting new life in the society by establishing a Sam Steel Council and recognizing all alumni with the presentation of a newly designed lapel pin.

"We decided last fall that we weren't really doing enough to engage the alumni of the college," said interim Dean Jim Libbin. "For the last 25 years, we've inducted our graduating seniors in the society, but that was the last they heard of the society, which was supposed to be an alumni group. We decided to rebrand our alumni association."

Last fall during Homecoming, the Sam Steel Council was formed. One of the group's first goals was to have alumni events.

About 75 alumni attended the first Sam Steel Society reception in January. They received the new Sam Steel Way brand pin, a miniature version of the livestock brand, which is actually registered with the New Mexico Livestock Board. At the next college graduation ceremony, former graduates were recognized with pins.

Now college leaders have pins with them, ready to be given to any graduate.

"It's a way to recognize the strength, commitment and pride that ACES graduates have in the college and university," Libbin said. "I have been overwhelmed by the sense of appreciation our alumni have for what they got out of NMSU and how proud they are to be an Aggie."

» JANE MOORMAN

# Ballot projections

## A rundown of NMSU construction projects on the November ballot

» MINERVA BAUMANN

**M**ORE THAN \$27 million in capital outlay projects are on the November ballot for New Mexico State University campuses as part of this year's proposed General Obligation Bond C, which would fund renovations for aging infrastructure at universities across the state.

If approved by voters, \$22.5 million is planned for new D.W. Williams Hall, which houses NMSU's Department of Art and University Art Gallery. The facility was built in 1938 and despite having large concrete bleachers that could not be removed, was converted for use by the art department in 1972. The bleachers limit the classroom space.

Each classroom and studio only accommodates six to 12 students, which limits enrollment potential, said College of Arts and Sciences Interim Dean Enrico Pontelli. A larger facility will help the college better meet student needs. And the design of the new building would provide opportunities for interdisciplinary crossover and

collaboration among students in different arts specialties, including ceramics, drawing, graphic design, jewelry/metals, painting, photography, printmaking, 3-D modeling, museum conservation, sculpture and art history.

If approved, the capital outlay funds would join more than \$800,000 in private funds from the community.

The new facility would be constructed adjacent to Williams Hall's current location. "The voters of New Mexico will have an opportunity to show their support for higher education with this year's General Obligation Bond, which would help fund capital improvement projects around the state," said NMSU Chancellor Garrey Carruthers.

The ballot measure includes \$5 million in infrastructure upgrades, renovation and construction for other campuses in the NMSU system (see the graphic below for details). General Obligation bonds come before the voters of New Mexico every two years to support projects throughout the state. There are no tax increases associated with these bonds.

## Stamp of approval



**MARK OF TRADITION:** Agricultural and Extension Education Department Head Frank Hodnett "brands" student Cheyenne Eldridge's College of ACES T-shirt with paint during the third annual branding ceremony.

**A**gricultural and Extension Education Department Head Frank Hodnett wanted to start a tradition for the freshmen in the ACES 111 class, and within three years it has grown to a celebration for all ACES freshman and seniors, during homecoming week.

Before the 2013 fall semester, Hodnett wanted to create a tradition that was special to the freshman in his ACES 111 class. With the help of Katie Reagan and support from many faculty members, he made his "branding" ceremony go from idea to reality.

"I kept it a secret. I told the students that we were going to have a final exam. I walked in with a bunch of papers under my arm that were supposed to look like a test," Hodnett said. "I was fixing to pass it out and I said 'All right let's go to the final' and we went out and did the branding ceremony, and that's how we started it."

In the ceremony, each student is given a college T-shirt to wear, then "branded" with the college's Sam Steel brand on the shoulder with a branding iron dipped in white paint.

When the branding ceremony started, Hodnett planned for it to become a big tradition in the ACES College. The academic programs office approached him and wanted to move it to homecoming week. After some hesitation, Hodnett remembered, he was told, "No, you wanted this big and this is bigger than you, so let's do it!"

In the past three years it has grown to be special to the freshman, and during the new ceremony they get to express that. By moving it to homecoming week they also hope to give alumni the opportunity to see what they are doing for the freshman, and get branded too. The seniors are now recognized during the ceremony, with pad-folios with the Sam Steel brand on the front.

Next year's ceremony will be Friday afternoon of Homecoming week, 2017.

"I would like more of our college faculty to come and support the kids while we are doing it, because that's a part of building the family connection," Hodnett said.

» SHELBY HERRERA

## \$27 million: the ballot breakdown

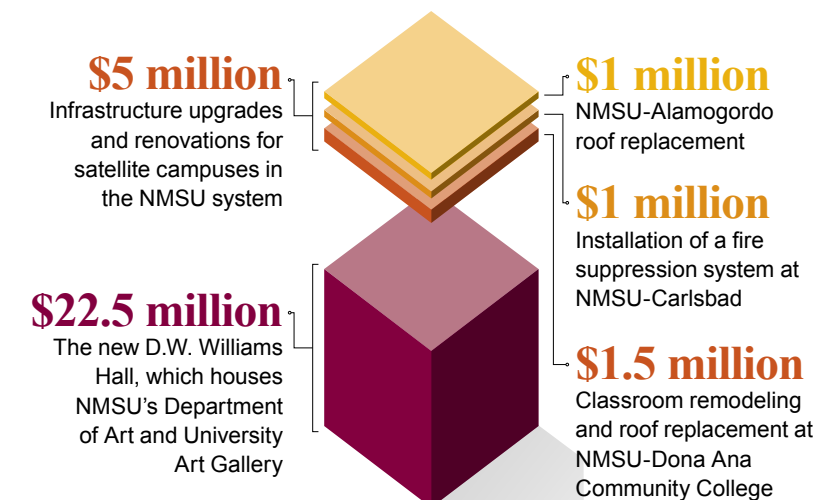


PHOTO: SHELBY HERRERA

# Real world ranching

## Unique youth management camp gets a historic home

» JANE MOORMAN

**C**IMARRON – THE NEW Mexico Youth Ranch Management Camp has a new location. It will be held on the CS Cattle Company’s 130,000-acre ranch at the foot of the Sangre de Cristo mountain range near Cimarron.

“This location will allow our campers to see a real-life working ranch,” said camp director Jack Blandford, Luna County Extension program director. “The CS is a working cattle and hunting operation and has been family owned and operated since 1873. We all are excited about holding the ranch camp there.”

The CS Cattle Company was founded by Frank Springer and his brother Charles, whose initials are used for the ranch name and historic brand. Les Davis, grandson of Frank Springer, took over management of the CS in 1947 and today his children continue managing the operations.

The 2016 camp will be held June 5 to 10. The youth ranch management camp is administered each summer by New Mexico State University’s Cooperative Extension Service. It began in 2011 at the Valles Caldera National Preserve. Since then 100 youth have participated in this unique opportunity to be exposed to the vast career

opportunities associated with the beef industry.

“We are proud to offer this one-of-a-kind program for the future cattle producers of our state,” said Jon Boren, NMSU College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences associate dean and director of the Extension Service. “The collaboration between our Extension specialists, county Extension agents and members of the ranching industry has provided an opportunity for the youth to learn about the many aspects of managing a ranch and natural resources.”

During the five-day camp, the 15- to 19-year-old youth receive college-caliber course information on all things beef, marketing and ranch economics, natural resources and rangeland management.

The campers are divided into teams to prepare a ranch management plan on how they would operate a ranch. On the final day of camp, the teams present their plans to judges from the beef industry and NMSU in competition for the coveted team jackets. One camper each day receives the Top Hand award for their outstanding participation in that day’s activities.

“You don’t have to just be in ranching to attend this camp. It offers a wide variety of career avenues,” Blandford said.



**EDUCATION IN APPLICATION:** Brianna Kimsey, of Grenville, New Mexico, right, and Lukas Mott, of Chaparral, New Mexico, look at a model of a cow’s digestive system with NMSU Professor Eric Scholljegerdes during the New Mexico Youth Ranch Management Camp beef day activities (above).

**‘ROUND THE MOUNTAIN:** Students will be treated to views of the majestic Sangre de Cristo Mountain Range (below).

# More gelato, please

## NMSU’s ACES In The Hole Foods expands, looks for new opportunities

» ADRIANA M. CHÁVEZ

**N**EW MEXICO STATE University’s ACES in The Hole Foods is expanding and exploring new opportunities thanks to the newly renovated Tejada Food Manufacturing Pilot Plant.

ACES in the Hole Foods is a student-run food company at NMSU and a part of the curriculum in Food Science and Technology in the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences, also known as the College of ACES. It provides students with opportunities to apply principles of food science and technology to the invention of new food products, such as gelato, coffees and brownie and cornbread mixes. Those products are sold in the Sam Steel Cafe, formerly known as Crimson Creations, inside Gerald Thomas Hall on campus.

Recently, ACES in the Hole Foods received funding from the college to expand its food processing production in the Tejada Building near Gerald Thomas Hall. Whitney Biel, manager of both Sam Steel Cafe and ACES in the Hole Foods, said the company obtained an occupancy permit for the Tejada Building and food production

began last fall.

“We’re able to make up to 23 gallons of gelato in 10 minutes, so that means we can expand into restaurants and grocery stores,” Biel said. She added students will also be able to increase the variety of gelato flavors.

Students have been producing 21 gallons every two weeks for Sam Steel Cafe and the Landmark Mercantile in Mesquite, N.M. The new food processing area boasts a new candy coating machine, a cookie dough molder and a new Carpigiani-brand gelato machine.

“I am excited to see how the growth of our food production facility will expand the capabilities of our students,” said Esther Devall, head of the Family and Consumer Sciences Department in the College of ACES. “The new facility provides students with more opportunities to create new food products, and gives them real-world experience that will benefit them when applying for a job in the food industry.”

Students also bag coffee under the company’s label. The coffee is a blend of coffee beans created by students with the help of Picacho Coffee Roasters. Bags of coffee are now for sale at Sam Steel Cafe.

# Recent grad heralded

**M**atisun Jane McDougal graduated from the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences in December with good grades, a degree in dietetics and prehealth-nutrition, minors in biochemistry and Spanish, and a great drive to serve.

McDougal was named a recipient of the Fall 2015 Outstanding Graduate Awards on Social Media for her leadership skills and her willingness to serve others locally and globally.

“She has an impressive history of service and is adamant about serving others,” said James Libbin, interim dean of the College of ACES.

During her time at NMSU, McDougal made the Dean’s List several times and qualified as a Crimson Scholar. She also earned the Regent’s Scholarship and served as treasurer of the NMSU Student Association of Nutrition and Dietetics, in addition to leadership roles with NMSU Engineering without Boundaries, Chamisa Community Council and Students for Equality Education and Diversity.

Beyond her studies, she participating in Aggies Go Global; worked with NMSU Habitat for Humanity, NMSU Engineering Without Boundaries and the World Student Alliance; volunteered with Community of Hope and an orphanage in Juárez; and traveled to Nicaragua, Chile, Mexico and India.

“Juggling is the right word for my undergraduate experience,” McDougal said. And that may continue with her future plans: She wants to study at Bastyr University to become a doctor of naturopathic medicine and an acupuncturist. » ADRIANA CHAVEZ



**STRIVING TO SERVE:** Matisun Jane McDougal was named a recipient of the Fall 2015 Outstanding Graduate Awards on Social Media. She was recognized for her leadership skills and her willingness to serve others locally and around the world.

# Message from your Ambassador



**T**he College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences has truly been a home away from home. When I think about what the College of ACES means to me, one word comes to mind: family. This college has watched me grow into the person

I am today. From starting out in the Department of Animal and Range Science to changing my major late my junior year to Agricultural and Extension Education, I’ve never felt more welcomed by a group of people in my entire life.

As a senior graduating with a degree in Agriculture and Community Development, I know I am prepared for what my future holds. I am currently waiting to hear back from graduate schools where I hope to be in the fall. The AXED depart-

ment, my professors, and my peers have prepared me for a life in the real world (whether I am ready for it or not).

I was lucky enough to be chosen to represent the ACES College as an ambassador my senior year. My experience as an ambassador has led me to so many opportunities: meeting amazing alumni at the homecoming breakfast, traveling across the state to encourage high school students to attend NMSU, and meeting the amazing staff and faculty from NMSU. The only regret I have is not applying sooner!

NMSU and the ACES College has given me family. I am truly honored and thankful for this amazing home in Las Cruces; a home I can’t wait to come back to as an alumni. Go Aggies! » HANNAH PARKER



## Rodeo's next ride

With the spring rodeo season in full swing for the Grand Canyon Region, NMSU rodeo coach Logan Corbett is hard at work with the team.

Having mandatory scheduled practices, weekly team meetings and increased coaching staff with assistant coaches – Clancy Phillips, Oobie Hawkes and Brett Burkes – has helped Corbett

bring the team together.

“This semester we’re practicing together as a whole and they’re really pulling together a lot,” said Corbett. “You can just tell a difference in the practice pens, they’re more of

a team.”

Corbett led the team to their first win at the Central Arizona College rodeo in early March, where the NMSU men’s team took first place in the round.

» SHELBY HERRERA

## Green thumb

Sabine Whitley Green, floriculture programs coordinator in Plant & Environmental Sciences, earned a national certificate from the American Institute of Floral Designers in July 2015.

As an accredited designer with AIFD, Green has received the highest honor or degree in the nation for floral designers. She said the accreditation is an equivalent of having a Ph.D. in floral design. To earn the certification, Green had to

pass both a written exam and hands-on practicum with a score of 85 percent or better.

“I was excited because what it does is it validates the program here, and it actually launches us into a more professional category as a school that hosts a floriculture program.”

After earning the national certification, NMSU is now listed on the AIFD website, and Green’s students are now eligible to compete in the national symposium, which is held every July.

» TIFFANY ACOSTA

**LABOR OF LOVE:** Sabine Whitley Green’s hard work has paid off. The NMSU floriculture programs coordinator is now an accredited designer with the American Institute of Floral Designers.



PHOTOS: BAILEY BONFANTINI (TOP); FRANK VILLASANA, BACK IN BLACK CREATIVE SERVICES (BOTTOM)

## REMEMBRANCES

# A pioneer passes

Distinguished alumnus Ogden contributed to agriculture in many ways

» JANE MOORMAN

**H**ONORED AMONG 100 OUTSTANDING graduates and distinguished alumni of NMSU’s College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences, James C. “Jim” Ogden, of the class of ’42 passed away on Oct. 24, 2015, at his home in Loving, New Mexico. A celebration of life service was held on Oct. 31.

Farming was Ogden’s calling, livelihood and passion. While attending NMSU, then called New Mexico A&M, he was a member of Block & Bridle Club, the livestock judging team and ROTC. He was also a charter member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity.

In June of 1942, Ogden received his diploma in agriculture business and economics, his commission into the Marine Corps and his military orders, all on the same day.

Ogden served as a second lieutenant in the Pacific Theater during World War II and was honorably discharged in January 1946 with the rank of captain.

Ogden married Mary Sue Forehand on Dec. 30, 1945, in Carlsbad. Jim and Sue Ogden were married for 68 years. They had four children, eight grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Following their marriage, Ogden attended the University of California at Berkeley for a year before returning to Loving to farm.

During the 1950s, Ogden leased the Roy Forehand Ranch on the Black River from his mother-in-law, Masie Ussey Forehand, and ultimately purchased it from her. The family farm and ranch operation continues today.

Ogden’s drive and desire to improve farming led him to work with NMSU in advancing agricultural procedures and innovation by planting experimental cotton and alfalfa seed varieties, and by improving water-use efficiency on his farm along the Black River.

He served on the boards of the Carlsbad Irrigation District, New Mexico Crop Improvement Association and New Mexico Cotton Advisory Committee, and was a member of numerous other civic, agricultural and community organizations.

Jim and Sue were active supporters of NMSU and the New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum. They received the A.J Crawford Pioneer Award in 1995 from the Carlsbad Foundation.

In his memory, the family suggests donations to the NMSU Foundation for the James C. and Mary Sue Ogden Scholarship.

# Cervantes’ story

Remembering a community leader in agriculture, public health issues

» JANE MOORMAN

**G**ROWING UP ON THE LA MESA FAMILY farm during the 1930s and 1940s, Emma Jean Apodaca Cervantes was raised to appreciate her roots and value hard work. These ideals served her well as she emerged as one of the leading women in agriculture in New Mexico.

The mother of three and grandmother of six always said she was blessed to spend her days working alongside her children as president of both J.F. Apodaca Farms and Cervantes Enterprises Inc.

Emma’s work with chile was foremost in her heart. Prior to her death in August 2014, she served on the New Mexico Chile Pepper Institute board of directors for 20 years.

In 1996, she was recognized by the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences with the Philip Leyendecker Agriculturist of Distinction Award.

Appreciating her agricultural roots, Emma was an original founder of the New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum in Las Cruces.

She served on many local, state and national boards, including the New Mexico Border Authority as an appointee by the late Gov.

Bruce King, as well as the U.S. Department of Agriculture National Research, Extension, Education and Economics advisory board as an appointee by President Bill Clinton.

Emma’s formal training was as a nurse. After graduating from Loretto Academy in 1953, she attended Mount Saint Mary’s University in Los Angeles, California, where she obtained a Bachelor of Science Degree in nursing education.

During her nursing career in New Mexico, she served on the nursing faculty at NMSU. Her commitment to health care in southern New Mexico was evidenced by her service to the community through many health-care organizations.

One of her proudest accomplishments was serving on the Memorial Medical Center Hospital board of directors; she was the first female and first nurse to do so, and served as the board’s chair for a time.

She was instrumental in the creation of Mesilla Valley Hospice, First Step Center and the Memorial Cancer Treatment Center of Las Cruces. Later, she had the honor of serving on the New Mexico Blue Cross Blue Shield board of directors.

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**SAM STEEL WAY**  
Darrell J. Pehr, Editor  
University Communications and  
Marketing Services  
MSC 3k, P.O. Box 3001  
Las Cruces, NM 88003-8001  
Telephone: 575-646-3221  
Fax: 575-646-2099  
E-mail: ucomm@nmsu.edu

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## Top profs

### College faculty members selected as Regents professors

» **DARRELL J. PEHR**

**N**EW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY'S spring convocation included the announcement of four new Regents Professorships among the NMSU faculty. Two are from the college.

The Regents Professorship, established in 2001 by the NMSU Board of Regents, recognizes faculty who have made outstanding contributions to the university's mission and honors contributions in areas of education, research, extension education and public service.

The new Regents Professors are Martha Desmond, Department of Fish, Wildlife and Conservation Ecology, and Thomas J. Dormody, Department of Agricultural and Extension Education.

Desmond secured a \$3.3 million grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to train underrepresented minority students from NMSU and other universities in New Mexico and Puerto Rico in natural resources fields; her program has become a national model within USDA. Dormody served as director of the Division of Education and dean of the Graduate School at the Center of Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education (CATIE) in Turrialba, Costa Rica.

They join 43 others selected as Regents Professors since 2001. Regents Professors hold the title for as long as they continue to teach at NMSU.



These ACES  
faculty members  
were named NMSU  
Regents Professor-  
ship recipients in  
January:



**Martha Desmond**  
Fish, Wildlife and  
Conservation  
Ecology



**Thomas Dormody**  
Agricultural and  
Extension Education

## GivingTuesday

**T**he College of ACES joined New Mexico State University's system-wide day of giving on Dec. 1, 2015. On GivingTuesday, Aggie supporters poured more than \$2.9 million into scholarship and program funds across all NMSU campuses. Gifts made to scholarships for Giving Tuesday were matched by the Foundation using funds from NMSU's Alumni License Plate program, bringing the grand total to more than \$5.7 million. Look for more information about the second annual GivingTuesday event this fall.

Here's how GivingTuesday in the College of ACES shaped up, by the numbers:

**\$433,569**

total of new support for college  
scholarships and programs

**\$212,539** amount of new gifts  
matching funds for  
scholarship gifts

**\$221,030**

**303**  
number  
of  
donors