

NMSU's Corona Ranch receives legislative funding for research and outreach

Picture yourself in a tiny New Mexico town. There are no shopping centers, no coffee shops, no art galleries or museums. There's not even a full-time doctor.

The post office is run by one employee, the grocery store closes for funerals, and when the wind blows, your car is pelted by tumbleweeds.

This is not the sort of place where a person would expect to find university-level scientific research, but near Corona, N.M., about 200 miles north of New Mexico State University's main campus in Las Cruces, that's exactly what you'll find.

Shad Cox is ranch manager for the Corona Range and Livestock Research Center (CRLRC), a 27,886-acre working ranch and research facility under the joint supervision of the university's Department of Animal and Range Sciences and the Agricultural Experiment Station.

During the last legislative session, the state of New Mexico awarded the CRLRC nearly a million dollars in funding to improve infrastructure, Cox said.

"We need a meeting space for our scientists and employees and a building to house our outreach programs," Cox said.

Cox went on to describe having to clean out the ranch's shop and rent tents whenever a field day was scheduled.

"We'd like to have one building that would house everything, but that will be difficult to do with the resources we have. We'll try to meet the needs of the moment and add on as more funding becomes available," he said.

Currently, 19 scientists, three research technicians and 11 graduate students from NMSU's main campus are involved with research activities at the center, which focuses its efforts on improving livestock production, wildlife management and hydrology. Forty-one theses or dissertations have been completed by graduate students using the CRLRC for data collection.

"We're in the business of education," said Cox, who went on to describe several outreach programs including the Tri-Annual Research Field Day.

First held in 2005, the Tri-Annual Field Day, attended by more than 200 people from as far as Texas and Arizona, is a new way of presenting livestock research.

Instead of a traditional lecture series, the CRLRC presents a series of interactive poster presentations through which

visitors may travel freely and meet the scientists responsible for the work.

"Questions from attendees can influence a scientist in his future work. A producer could introduce a need that the scientist didn't know was there. Now we can tailor our work to our clientele – the public," Cox said.

The future of the CRLRC is diversity, with research ranging from pre- and post-partum livestock nutrition to wind energy to fee hunting to economics.

"Imagine a working ranch that applies research to all facets at all times," Cox said.

Aside from salaries for the center's two full-time employees, the ranch is self-sustaining, with income generated by ranch enterprises providing research support, operational monies and improvements.

According to Cox, the center's advisory committee, a diverse group of community members with an interest in the livestock industry, has been essential for the center's success. Not only did the advisory committee help develop the Tri-Annual Research Field Day, it helped create awareness that led to the legislative funding.

"They saw a need here at the ranch, and went to the Legislature," Cox said.

For more information, visit corona.nmsu.edu.

Shaline Lopez



NMSU graduate student Flint Harrleson and Richard Dunlap, a senior research assistant, take a weekly rumen sample from a young calf as part of a two-year study at the ranch investigating the role of pre-natal nutrition on subsequent calf health.

A message from the dean

Thank you for being supportive of the College of Agriculture and Home Economics. Last year the college had a significant increase in students and preliminary estimates for 2008 indicate another growth year. Additionally, grants and contracts for research and extension outreach activities were the largest of all colleges on campus while donations from friends and alumni reached new heights. We are truly blessed and appreciate all of your support. Together we can continue to make the college better for your family and friends.



Catlett

To reflect the rapid changes that are occurring around the world, friends and alumni asked if the name of the college could be reexamined. A committee was formed composed of faculty, staff, students, alumni and outside stakeholders to review possible changes. Several new names were selected and voted upon by as many alumni, faculty, students and stakeholders that we could identify and the named selected by 2/3 of those that voted was College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences. This name was submitted to the university and is currently going through the process that all name changes must undertake, which should be completed by fall of 2008.

We are striving at the college to continue to do outstanding research, which now includes everything from algae for bio-diesel to understanding the relationship between diets and the national epidemic of obesity. The college is involved in helping Iraq rebuild its agricultural system and recently the college won a \$20 million contract to lead a team of other universities in helping Afghanistan rebuild its agricultural capacity. Both the Iraq and Afghanistan projects are using the strength of the Cooperative Extension Service model to train and help farmers in those countries. Our students continue to be recognized nationally in competitions ranging from floral judging to food marketing because the college's greatest strength is a faculty and staff dedicated to adding value to our students.

The greatest music to all of us at the college is to hear from you. A simple phone call, e-mail or text message to let us know how and what you are doing and to tell us how to make the college better is, and will always be, appreciated beyond words, because

THIS IS YOUR COLLEGE!

Dean Lowell Catlett

Universitywide partnerships bring about new programs

The College of Agriculture and Home Economics is partnering with other colleges on campus to give students the opportunity to participate in new degree programs starting in fall 2008.

The new cross-college degree programs to be offered are the Bachelor of Science degree in genetics and the Doctor of Economic Development.

The Bachelor of Science in genetics will be offered jointly by the departments of biology and plant and environmental sciences.

The intent of the program is to prepare students for a variety of genetics-related professions, including academic research, agriculture, biology, biotechnology, health sciences and medicine. Students also will be well-prepared to enter graduate school, medical school or veterinary school.

CAHE will partner with the College of Business to offer the Doctor of Economic Development (DED).

"The doctor is designed to prepare students to practice their profession rather than teach it. Students can access the academic end of the subject, but still be rooted in the application of the knowledge," said Richard Adkisson, professor of economics and international business and director of DED.

The courses are a combination of theory and application, including theory of economic development, environmental economics and demography classes. To graduate,

students in the program must have about 45 classroom hours and 15 hours of internships and projects.

The equivalent of a master's degree is required for admission.

Internal partnerships between CAHE departments also offer students new opportunities. The culinology degree option will be offered jointly by the School of Hotel, Restaurant and Tourism Management (HRTM) and the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences.



DARREN PHILLIPS

HRTM students work in a hands-on environment during a food preparation course.

The option is expected to be available in fall 2009. Made possible by a \$240,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, it will combine the culinary arts with the applied science of food research and development.

"Companies are looking for students who have expertise in both the culinary arts and food science. NMSU is responding to what the industry wants," said Priscilla Bloomquist, professor of HRTM and co-director of the culinology project.

Margaret Kovar

Faculty and staff recognized for achievements

Faculty and staff in the College of Agriculture and Home Economics have received acclaim for recent accomplishments including research projects that have attracted \$1 million or more in funding during the 2006-2007 fiscal year, the Roberts Memorial Staff Award and the Wildlife Society's Diversity Award.

Researchers from the College of Agriculture and Home Economics recognized as generating \$1 million or more in funding were Lowell B. Catlett, LeRoy A. Daugherty, Esther L. Devall and Paul Gutierrez.

"Research is the driver for economic development, quality of life, pride, recognition and national ranking," said Vimal Chaitanya, NMSU's vice president for research, graduate studies and international programs. "Responsible research helps the local community, state, nation and indeed impacts the world."

Raul Valdez, professor and department head of fishery and wildlife sciences, received the 2007 Diversity Award from the Wildlife Society.

The award honors individuals, organizations, institutions or corporations that implement innovative programs that further diversity in employment, academic enrollment or membership, as evidenced by increased representation of minorities and women in wildlife-related professions.

The 2007 Stephen W. and Robert E. Roberts Memorial Staff Award went to Leopoldo R. Hinojos, an employee at the NMSU Agricultural Science Center at Artesia (NMSU-ASC) for more than 17 years. Hinojos received a plaque and a \$1,000 award.

"Leo has been a very dedicated and valuable employee to this organization," said Guadalupe Carrasco, superintendent of NMSU-ASC. "He is a huge piece of the puzzle that makes the NMSU Agricultural Science Center at Artesia."

Austin Craig

NMSU students show off sheep



DARREN PHILLIPS

Students in the sheep and wool production class taught by Tim Ross learn how to prepare sheep for livestock shows at the sheep barn located on the NMSU Las Cruces campus. The class addresses various areas of sheep management including reproduction, breeding and genetics, nutrition, health and wool. Most of the labs are hands-on and include wool evaluation and grading, selection, vaccinations, lambing barn management, body condition scores and other activities.

CAHE partners with community colleges

Unique partnerships with two community colleges will take NMSU's College of Agriculture and Home Economics classes to the far corners of the state.

"We've established unique partnerships with Clovis Community College and San Juan College to provide classes to students in the Clovis and Farmington areas," said Wes Holley, associate dean and associate director of academic programs. "The students will be enrolled in dual or concurrent classes of which the credit will transfer to NMSU."

High school students in 13 school districts in eastern New Mexico will be able to attend NMSU agriculture classes via interactive television (ITV). It will be as good as sitting in a Gerald Thomas Hall classroom as the students at both ends of the Internet link watch and talk with each other and the professor.

Working with Jean Morrow, Clovis Community College's director of extended learning, CAHE is setting up classes that may be viewed by students at Clayton, Corona, Des Moines, Elida, Fort Sumner, Grady, House, Logan, Mosquero, Roy, San Jon, Santa Rosa and Vaughn. A total of six students are needed for the class to

be offered. The good news is not all six have to be from the same school.

Beginning in fall 2008, an agriculture economics class with Jerry Hawkes, assistant professor of agriculture economics and business, will be offered. Courses scheduled for 2009 include animal science with Tim Ross, animal science interim department head, and plant science with Tracy Carrillo, Extension specialist and seed certification program coordinator. Courses through the School of Hotel, Restaurant and Tourism Management will be offered in fall 2008 and spring 2009.

In the Four Corners Region, CAHE and San Juan County have developed a unique partnership where Kevin Lombard, horticulturalist at the Farmington Agricultural Science Center, will teach classes at San Juan College. Students will be able to obtain a two-year associate's degree or a one-year certificate in horticulture in xeric environment.

"San Juan College is contributing one-fourth of Kevin's salary, so he will be on the faculty of both NMSU and San Juan College," Holley said.

Lombard will join fellow Farmington ASC faculty member Dan Smeal and San



Kevin Lombard, horticulturalist at the Farmington Agricultural Science Center, will teach classes at San Juan College.

Juan College faculty members Don Hyder, Callie Vanderbilt and Linda Reedes in teaching classes in xeriscape principles, plant identification and diagnoses of plant disorders, landscape design and irrigation systems and installation. Classes will begin in fall 2008.

Jane Moorman

Legislative Update

Highlighting the 2008 session of the New Mexico Legislature for the College of Agriculture and Home Economics was legislation that will bring more than \$1 million in capital outlay, \$500,000 in recurring base funding and more than \$800,000 in other new funds. In addition, funding was renewed at 80-100 percent of last year's levels for several special project expansion items.

Highlights include \$1 million in capital outlay for the Southwest Center for Rangeland Sustainability at the Corona Range and Livestock Research Center; \$250,000 each to the Cooperative Extension Service and Agricultural Experiment Station for recurring base budget increases; \$267,000 for chile industry research; \$140,000 for an agricultural leadership program; and \$135,000 for Tribal Cooperative Extension Centers.

Also included are \$99,300 for Range Improvement Task Force vegetation monitoring; \$74,000 for improvements at the Clovis Agricultural Science Center; \$42,400 for statewide 4-H programs; \$41,700 for a family wellness program; \$40,000 for the Hotel, Restaurant and Tourism Management Pro-Start program; \$40,000 in HRTM capital outlay; \$35,000 in FFA

travel; \$25,000 for improvements at the Tucumcari Agricultural Science Center; \$25,000 for the Bernalillo County Extension Service; \$25,000 for Las Vegas Schools' agricultural education; and \$4,000 for the FFA program in Chaves County.



Researcher Lou Bender works with an NMSU graduate student using ultrasound technology to measure the body condition of a pronghorn as part of a project studying habitat use on the Corona Range and Livestock Research Center.

Community speaks up at town hall meetings

Representatives from the College of Agriculture and Home Economics learned about the interests and needs of many communities across the state during a series of town hall meetings last fall.

Dean Lowell Catlett, along with associate deans, county-based NMSU faculty and others from the college visited Silver City, Farmington, Albuquerque, Clayton, Roswell and Las Cruces to meet with each community.

The meetings were called to hear and address the thoughts and concerns of those who rely on NMSU and the Cooperative Extension Service. Dozens of people attended each gathering, often commenting on how much they appreciated the meetings as a way to stay connected to the university.

Praise for the economic development work done by the university and calls for additional efforts were a common theme at the meetings. In Clayton, Town Manager Mike Running said attracting agricultural industry was im-

portant to the town. NMSU's economic development work, including feasibility studies were praised in Roswell.

The need for an increase in base funding in Extension to address operations and salaries was brought up in multiple cities.

Several individuals spoke about the need to address various community health issues. Some individuals also suggested ways to incorporate additional health resources into Extension.

Other topics included the need to engage young people and get them interested in agriculture and the need to establish additional

partnerships between NMSU and the state's high schools, two-year colleges and other universities.

Justin Bannister

NMSU Horse Exhibition



Socorro County 4-H member Jack Ramzel competes in the Ranch Horse Exhibition and Instruction hosted by New Mexico State University at the Socorro County fairgrounds. Free educational workshops took place earlier in the day. Ramzel took third place in the working ranch horse and ranch pleasure classes, and fourth in the ranch trail class.

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ASC Field Days

Field Days are held to give NMSU's science centers around the state the opportunity to demonstrate their research and activities for stakeholders in the area, such as farmers and ranchers. The following field days are scheduled:

Farmington Agricultural
Science Center
Friday, July 11
(505) 327-7757

Tucumcari Agricultural
Science Center
Thursday, Aug. 7
(575) 461-1620

Corona Range and Livestock
Research Center
Friday, July 18
(575) 849-1015

Artesia Agricultural
Science Center
Thursday, Aug. 14
(575) 748-1228

Alcalde Sustainable
Agriculture
Science Center
Tuesday, Aug. 5
(575) 852-4241

Clovis Agricultural
Science Center
Thursday, Aug. 28
(575) 985-2292

CAHE alumna leads students to successful careers

“I love working with students. Professionally influencing students and making a difference in their careers is the real joy in my work,” said Marci Armstrong, associate dean of graduate programs at the Cox School of Business, Southern Methodist University (SMU).



Armstrong

Named associate dean at SMU in 1998, Armstrong graduated from New Mexico State University with her bachelor's degree in home economics education in 1978. She went on to earn a master's degree from Texas Tech University and a doctorate in management science from the University of Texas at Dallas.

“When I went to work after graduating from NMSU it wasn't early enough to find a teaching job, so I became a banker. I found that I had a talent for business, so I eventually earned my doctorate in business,” Armstrong said.

Originally from Texas, Armstrong received a scholarship award from NMSU, which some of her friends planned to attend. Armstrong liked the climate, campus and location, saying, “I loved having sunshine all the time.”

While a student, Armstrong had a work-study job in the home economics department that influenced her academic career.

“I had some important women role models during a time when very few women had Ph.Ds. By working in the office, I got to know my professors well and thought, ‘I want to do what they're doing,’” Armstrong said.

Armstrong's duties as associate dean include strategic leadership of eight graduate programs, including oversight of admissions, student services, diversity, international programs and career management.

She has earned six teaching awards and still teaches business classes in addition to her administrative role and serving as vice chair of the Graduate Management Admission Council (GMAC) Board of Directors.

Armstrong is an active business consultant, working with companies including American Airlines, Home Depot, Verizon, Monsanto and Blockbuster.

Armstrong, who remains in touch with many of her undergraduate friends, is grateful to the College of Agriculture and Home Economics for the education and experiences she gained there.

“It was where I realized that I loved the academic world,” she said.

Shaline L. Lopez

CAHE professor's sculpture reflects joys of learning

College of Agriculture and Home Economics professor Grant Kinzer has impacted the university in more than one way, not only by helping students achieve their goals but as a sculptor.

Kinzer served as the Academic Department Head for the Department of Entomology, Plant Pathology and Weed Science in the College of Agriculture and Home Economics for 21 years. He remains a professor there and is now faculty in the Center for Animal Health, Food Safety and Bio Security. He also created the bronze “Joy of Learning” sculpture, located north of Branson Library.

President James Halligan requested Kinzer make a statue reflective of the university's mission for its centennial in 1988.

“We talked about it a lot, and asked ourselves, ‘What does the university do?’

Well, a big part of our work is passing on knowledge from one generation to the next, from the past to today. We decided this piece was the best way to show that,” Kinzer said.

The man was modeled after the former band director at Las Cruces High School, Greg Randall. Kinzer's two daughters, Kacie and Kristal, served as the models for the girl.

“I picked Greg because he had such a kindly face and had worked with kids all of his life,” Kinzer said.

The statue was built in the

Kinzer's garage. A basic shape was made out of Styrofoam and clay, which was then taken to a foundry for a mold to be made. Each piece was cast separately and welded together to form the final piece.

Kinzer's wife Cathy, an assistant professor of curriculum and instruction in the College of Education, also helped build the statue.

“When you build sculptures, you are basically taking away the stuff that doesn't look right,” Kinzer explained. “My wife has an awfully good eye for that kind of thing. She's my best critic.”

Other bronze sculptures by Kinzer have been displayed at the Cowboy Hall of Fame in Oklahoma City and in galleries across the Southwest. One piece, titled “Close Enough,” was even sold directly to John Wayne.

Margaret Kovar



Grant Kinzer with the statue “Joy of Learning,” located north of Branson Library.

CAHE honors New Mexico leaders

The College of Agriculture and Home Economics honored faculty, staff and others who have contributed to agriculture and the university during an annual Awards Day on April 25.

The Fabian Garcia Founder's Award was given to Bill Sauble. Sauble is the past president of the New Mexico Cattle Grower's Association and vice chairman of the New Mexico Livestock Board.

Billy Dictson received the New Mexico Outstanding Leader Award. Dictson worked for the New Mexico Cooperative Extension Service and is currently director of the Office of Biosecurity at the Southwest Border Food Safety and Defense Center.

The Leyendecker Agriculturist of Distinction was awarded to Arden Baltensperger. While serving as head of the agronomy department, Baltensperger helped establish the doctorate in agronomy. He also was instrumental in establishing the Leyendecker Plant Science Research Center.

The Southwest Border Food Safety and Defense Center won the Team Award.

Danise Coon received the Distinguished Service Award. Coon is a program coordinator in the Department of Agronomy and Horticulture.

Rolston St. Hilaire, an associate professor in the agronomy and horticulture department, received the Distinguished Research Award.

Entomology specialist Carol Sutherland was honored with the Distinguished Extension Award.

Don Rhey received the Distinguished Staff Member Award (On Campus), while Monica Lury received the Distinguished Staff Member Award (Off Campus). Rhey is an analyst for Extension Computer Support Services, and Lury is a records specialist.

The Distinguished Teaching Award was given to Jay Lillywhite, an assistant professor of agricultural economics and agricultural business.

The NACTA Teaching Award went to Andres Cibils. Cibils is an assistant professor in the animal and range sciences department.

Program director Carlos Valdez was named Outstanding 4-H Agent.

The HRTM Industry Leadership Award went to Joe Loyd, and the Family and Consumer Science Outstanding Alumni Award was given to Tina Faye Jones.

Terrell "Red" Baker, Jane Moorman, Mark Petersen and Reynaldo Torres were honored with the Extension Specialist Association Awards.

Awards also were given to faculty and staff for five, 10, 15, 20, 25 and 30 years of service to the college and university.

Margaret Kovar

Alumni chapter elects new officers

As the spring semester begins to wind down, NMSU's College of Agriculture and Home Economics Alumni and Friends Chapter is off to a new start with the election of the 2008-2009 officers. The new officers are Julie Montgomery, president; Joleen Atencio, vice president; Avery Culbertson, secretary; and Cindy Farmer, treasurer.

The new officers plan to continue the tradition of excellence already established by the chapter, but aspire to add new activities and new members throughout this coming year.

This year's activities are looking to include community service projects, pre-athletic socials and of course, assistance with a multitude of homecoming events. In the past, the chapter has participated in alumni judging events, sponsored the homecoming dance and helped solicit nominations for the Sam Steel Exemplar Award and NMSU Distinguished Alumni Awards. These events have proven to be a success, but I challenge you to submit new ideas that the chapter can add to their calendar of events.

I also welcome new participation in helping us plan for the coming year.

The chapter can only be as strong as its committee members. Through the four different committees, you are sure to find an activity that interests you. I challenge you to seek more information about these committees and participate in at least one activity this coming year. Regardless of your ZIP code, there is some way for everyone to contribute. As a reminder, the chapter committees

are Alumni Events Committee, Award and Recognition Committee, Development and Finance Committee and Student Recruitment Committee.

I am very excited about the coming year. I have high hopes for the 2008 chapter events and look forward to meeting many of you along the way. Again, I welcome your ideas no matter how big or small and encourage you all to find a way to participate and give back to the CAHE. Please e-mail the chapter at ssway@nmsu.edu with your ideas for the coming year.

Julie B. Montgomery
CAHE Alumni Chapter President



New CAHE alumni officers, from left, Julie Montgomery, Cindy Farmer, Avery Culbertson, Vicki Ligon and Joleen Atencio.

DARREN PHILLIPS

NMSU part of eXtension on-line news source

Staff and faculty in the College of Agriculture and Home Economics are helping to provide people across the nation with information through a Cooperative Extension Service Web site.

The eXtension on-line news source is a national program bringing together knowledge from 74 land-grant universities in the U.S. Each university contributes research-based information, creating a network of providers in a single search engine. Educators also can develop information collaboratively on-line.

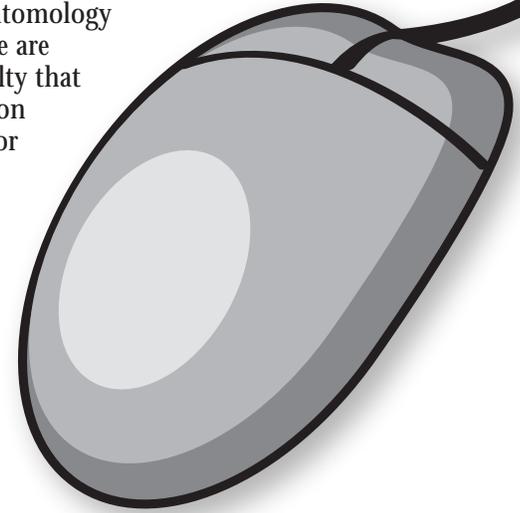
On the eXtension Web site, professional educators with expertise in a specific subject or topic are brought together to form a resource area known as a community of practice (COP). The educators within a COP can add information in their area to the site and also can help answer questions.

There are COPs covering a wide variety of topics, such as horses, entomology and home economics. There are many CAHE staff and faculty that are in a COP, including Jason Turner, an assistant professor in the animal and range sciences department; Carol Sutherland, an entomology specialist; and Billy Dictson, a specialist for the Cooperative Extension Service.

Course and learning materials will be added to the Web site in the future.

The site can be found at <http://www.extension.org>.

Margaret Kovar



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