



New Mexico State University Weekly Activity Report

June 23 - 27, 2014

President Garrey Carruthers, Ph.D.

- The Regents set a new modern record for speed of a Regents meeting (about 10 minutes max) when they gathered to approve renovations to an auditorium at the NMSU Grants facility. Apparently this one slipped through the cracks, needed a quick approval on the way to state approval or the federal funding would have been jeopardized.
- The Provost and I met with Faculty Senate Vice Chairman Larry Blank (Chairman Munson-Magee was on travel), something we attempt to do on a monthly basis. No big issues. Larry reinforced the interest of the Senate in another round of salary increases for faculty and staff. I told him that the Council of University Presidents has established this as one of their highest priorities for the next legislative session and that the Regents and myself are committed to the last cycle of funding to move faculty into the “Mercer Median” salary ranges.
- I met with Brother Carlos Gomes, Dan Howard, Lowell Catlett, Jim Libbin, and Cornell Menking regarding our joint NMSU/La Salle University in Columbia. Brother Carlos of La Salle is a dedicated educator/humanitarian who is attempting to rebuild his country through an aggressive program in agriculture education and experiential learning. There are a number of his students on our campus who are taking English as a Second Language course. Most inspiring man!
- I toured the Domenici Archives in the library and admired the \$1.6 million expansion and renovation. The Archives should be open for tours during the Domenici Conference in September. Thanks to Dean Beth Titus for showing me around.
- I met with the Diversity Council Executive Committee – Alisa Gonzales, Monica Torres, and Romina Pacheco – to review tons of data on diversity at NMSU and to discuss the prospects of doing another climate survey of all employees of NMSU. I will ask the Diversity Council and Employee Council leaders to meet with myself and Judy Bosland to scope out the survey. As an aside, NMSU has a very diverse faculty, staff and student body relative to our peers but we do have pockets where we could be more diverse.
- My thanks to Senator Joseph Cervantes and his wife Jennifer for hosting a get acquainted gathering at their home for Renay Scott, Cheryl Harrelson and a number of legislators. Our new team members are rapidly learning the lay of the land and discovering some very good supporters of NMSU.
- The team of Jim Libbin, Jim Peach, Kathy Hansen, and I will visit Questa on Monday, at the request of Senator Carlos Cisneros, who has asked to do a listening session with the community to see if NMSU can be helpful to same as they go through the Molycorp mine closing. We will be joined by the County Extension Agent from Taos County for the two hour meeting. Senator Cisneros is interested in any ideas to help the community through a transition and wants our views on reinvigorating the agriculture sector there.



Executive Vice President and Provost, Dr. Dan Howard

- Early in the week I spent an hour on the phone with Kara Carlisle of the Kellogg Foundation discussing areas of common interest between NMSU and the Foundation. We both agreed that there is a need for better communication between our two organizations. To foster this communication, Kara and I are scheduling regular phone calls and I am making arrangements for a face to face meeting in Albuquerque later this summer.
- Bobbie Derlin and I have begun to plan our comprehensive evaluation visit in 2018 from the Higher Learning Commission. During the visit, the reviewers will assess whether NMSU continues to meet the criteria for accreditation and the progress made on our Quality Initiative. Although the self-study associated with this visit will be limited to only 35,000 words, it will be important to begin planning the document in the coming academic year. Important tasks include identifying teams to write each section of the self-study and selecting an individual to lead each team.
- I spent a day and a half meeting with other members of the University Budget Committee as we evaluated Research and Public Service Proposals. Every proposal that was brought forward to the committee is a worthy project that would advance NMSU. Nevertheless, the committee had the unenviable task of identifying the limited number the university would advocate for at the state legislature during the coming legislative session.
- I attended two farewell receptions for associate deans, one for Dr. Lisa Bond-Maupin and one for Dr. Jonathan Schwartz. Both associate deans have left strong imprints on NMSU and both will be missed. I wish them the best in their new endeavors.

Dean, College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences, Dr. Lowell Catlett

Cooperative Extension

- Northeast and Southeast District annual 4H contests took place this week. There were over 300 youths, ages 9 to 12, participating. At the contests youth practice life skills such as critical thinking, public speaking, parliamentary procedure and showcase sewing, and cooking skills.
- Cooperative Extension Agents are getting a hands-on learning experience with an on-the-farm workshop in Moriarty, NM. Northern District Department Head, Pat Torres, and Torrance County Agent, Gene Winn, have worked with Dean Schwebach, a local producer, to work through what a producer would be required to do in order to meet Good Agricultural Practices. These plans must be in place before producers can sell to some retail outlets, such as Wal-Mart. Primus labs, Debra Garrison of Primus Labs will walk Extension agents through the process of becoming a certified producer, so Extension agents can help other producers in their counties. This training opportunity is a partnership with NMDA. NMDA and Cooperative Extension are working together to ensure that the Agriculture industry and our NM producers are equipped with the information they need to make their management decisions and coming into compliance with the Food Safety Modernization Act.



Fabian Garcia Science Center

- New Mexico Raised Shrimp from ACES's Agricultural Experiment Station, shrimp are being served at the Raging Shrimp restaurant in Nob Hill, Albuquerque. Nicholas Nellos, owner of Raging Shrimp, buys 10-15 pounds of our shrimp when they are available. He said "when he got the first batch, he was amazed at the taste, texture and flavor. The shrimp just had a scent, not an odor, and it is healthier for you because of the cottonseed meal the shrimp are eating." Nellos is hopeful that the NMSU facility will expand so he can order more shrimp in the future. Plans are being implemented by the Arrowhead Center to license NM Shrimp Co. to an investor who is building a new facility on the West Mesa for shrimp production. State Representative Bill McCamley secured capital outlay funding for aquaculture in New Mexico. These funds will be used to purchase equipment to conduct research in aquaculture at NMSU, primarily for shrimp production.
- High above the New Mexico State University campus, the Third Floor Bistro offers elegant dining, stunning views and seasonal menus. The Third Floor Bistro recently began serving a summer menu featuring salads, sandwiches and lunch entrees. One of the new menu items that is a must try is the New Mexico Shrimp Company Shrimp Tacos (\$10.95). The shrimp used in the tacos are raised on the NMSU campus and are served sautéed in a sweet tangy sauce. These are locally grown, fresh farm raised shrimp. The dish comes with two tacos and four corn tortillas. The tacos are topped with a cabbage salad and an avocado crème. The plate's wonderfully colorful presentation adds to the VIP atmosphere.

Media Productions/Ag Communications

- The Association for Communication Excellence (ACE) presented six Gold Awards to NMSU's Media Productions/Ag Communication for their educational media and learning games at the professional association's upcoming International Conference in Portland. In addition, the ACES team claimed 20% of the association's "best of class," called the Professional Skill Awards, which compares gold award winners in each category to select the most outstanding for each media type.

Animal and Range Science

- The 2014 Western Section, American Society of Animal Science meeting was held June 24-27 at Angelo State University in San Angelo, Texas. Dr. Tim Ross received the 2014 Western Section, American Society of Animal Science "Distinguished Service Award." Eric Scholljegerdes received the American Society of Animal Science "Young Scientist Award." Thirteen papers were presented in the Graduate Student Competition with six of those being by NMSU students, while six of the eight undergraduate student posters presented were NMSU students. The Graduate Student Paper Competition first place went to Kendall Samuelson and second place went to Kelsey Quinn. Student Awards went to Francesca Melgar, First Place, Nicole Sanchez, second place and Matthew Crouse, third place. Other NMSU recognitions received were: Academic Quadrathlon Team, First Place-Written Exam, WSASAS Graduate Student Representatives Kelsey Quinn and James Graves, Institutional Graduate Student Paper Award went to NMSU (5th consecutive year) and WSASAS Young Scholar Recognition Program when to Ely Camaco.



Dean, College of Arts and Sciences, Dr. Christa Slaton

- The college held a farewell reception for Associate Dean Lisa Bond-Maupin, who has been selected as Dean of the College of Social Sciences and Communication at the University of Arkansas – Little Rock. She will be missed on this campus, but we will continue to benefit from the contributions she has made.
- The College held a very successful New Student Registration on Saturday. Every department in the college had representatives serving the new students and their parents the entire day. Videos of some of our outstanding faculty were shown to parents, who were impressed with passion our faculty demonstrated for teaching!
- I met Tara Gray of the Teaching Academy to learn about our faculty’s participation in their programs and to recommend programs and faculty participants for next year.
- Two new department heads were present at the monthly department head meeting: William Storm (Theatre Arts) and Son Tran (Computer Science). We look forward to their participation in the leadership team in the college.
- Jeff Brown participated in a meeting about the Dunn Telescope at Sacramento Peak.

Interim Dean, College of Business, Dr. Kathleen Brook

- Representing the deans, Kathy Brook participated in a day and a half of meetings of the University Budget Committee, hearing presentations on about twenty Research and Public Service Programs seeking university support for expansion of funding from the legislature. This was a great opportunity to learn about some of the wonderful programs in which NMSU faculty members are involved.
- Rick Adkisson (Economics) and Carol Flinchbaugh (Management) attended an AACSB International conference on sustainability. This topic is an element in the majority of the accreditation standards adopted by AACSB in 2013.

Dean, College of Education, Dr. Michael Morehead

James O’Donnell, Associate Dean

- Continued preparation of the NM Prep Grant.
- Arranged tentative meetings regarding the transition from the NMTA assessments to the new state mandated assessments.

Juanita Hannan, Director for Education Research & Budgeting

- Met with Department heads to discuss each department request for GA positions in order to submit a final College request to Graduate School.

Ronald Dziwenka, Program Manager for Assessment

- He participated in webinars and discussed the applicability of the products or functionalities to our system – “SmartEvals online course evaluations webinar” and “Tk20 Webinar - Managing Assessment Data and Validating Meaningful Change.”

Jonathan Schwartz, Associate Dean for Research

- Worked on the NMLead proposal.
- Assisted in the next steps for the College of Education non-profit.
- Assisted with Psychopharmacology tuition sharing proposal.



Dean, College of Engineering, Dr. Ricardo Jacquez

NM Legislators visit College of Engineering

- The College of Engineering hosted the NM Legislative Finance Committee during their recent meeting in Las Cruces. Legislators were given a tour of the Manufacturing, Technology and Engineering Center and the new Aggie Innovation Space, which was made possible through a grant from Intel. Engineering faculty, staff and students were on hand to discuss ongoing projects and activities across all disciplines to foster an environment for innovation and entrepreneurship. Ken Ruble, manager of the Aggie Innovation Space, gave an update on student projects that have used the facility to launch start-up businesses as well as enhance their academic learning through hands-on experiences. Anthony Hyde, director of MTEC, gave an update on the business assistance, design validation, and prototype development work underway to enhance the competitiveness of businesses across the state.

Engineering hosts Project Lead the Way Teachers

- The Engineering New Mexico Resource Network is hosting the summer Project Lead the Way core teacher training in June and July. Project Lead the Way is the leading provider of rigorous and innovative science, technology, engineering, and mathematics curricular programs used in middle and high schools across the U.S. NMSU is the university affiliate for NM PLTW. Some 35 schools in New Mexico participate in PLTW- 25 high schools and 10 middle schools throughout the state. Some 21 teachers, most from New Mexico, will receive PLTW training this summer. For the first time, a new Medical Detectives program was offered in New Mexico for middle school teachers to introduce biomedical sciences to their students.

Engineering students present Dynamics of Design and Manufacturing tall

- On June 26 at the New Mexico Programming Group meeting, industrial engineering graduate students Brendan Sullivan and Oscar Torres presented an overview of the Partners for Advancement of Collaborative Engineering Education (PACE) Assisted Mobility Device CUBO. NMSU is a member institution of PACE and is participating on a multi-university team with universities from Brazil, Mexico, India, Germany and the USA for the upcoming contest in designing and building CUBO. As members of the NMSU PACE team, they discussed methods and approaches for manufacturing optimization, dealing with layout, materials and design, as well as covering what it takes to build a high power team capable of meeting deadlines and project objectives. They will travel to Turin, Italy in July for the worldwide competition.

Engineering faculty meet about CAREER proposals

- A group of College of Engineering tenure-track faculty are meeting this summer to work on National Science Foundation CAREER proposals. The topic of the last meeting was the educational component of the proposal, as well as broader impacts in general for National Science Foundation proposals.

Dean, College of Health and Social Services, Dr. Tilahun Adera

- Dean Tilahun Adera and HSS Advisory Board Member Ann DeBooy attended the groundbreaking ceremony for Memorial Medical Center's Wound Care Center.



2014 Memorial Medical Center hosted a groundbreaking ceremony June 12 for their new Wound Care Center. From left are Assistant CNO Jay Sundheimer, County Commissioner Benjamin Rawson, MMC Board of Trustee Beverly Hine, COO Steve Ruwoldt, MMC Board of Trustee Dean Tilahun Adera, CEO John Harris, CNO Ann DeBooy, CFO Jim McGonnell and Business Development Officer Dale Olson (Courtesy photo) Las Cruces Sun News

Dean, Graduate School, Dr. Loui Reyes

No Activity to Report

Dean, Honors College, Dr. William Eamon

- Dr. Andersen met with several students regarding the Fulbright Scholarship.

Dean, University Library, Dr. Elizabeth Titus

- A tour of the newly renovated Senator Pete V. Domenici Archives was conducted with President Garrey Carruthers and Norice Lee, Associate Dean, University Library. A ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the completion of this project is planned for September 16, 2014 as part of the Senator Pete V. Domenici Fall Conference being held on September 17-18, 2014 at the Las Cruces Convention Center.
- The University Library hosted a farewell reception for Associate Professor and Reference and Research Services Department Head, Cindy Pierard. She has accepted a position as Director of Access Services for the University of New Mexico Libraries.
- Several members of the University Library Staff are attending the 2014 Annual American Library Association Conference being held in Las Vegas, NV this week and ending on July 2, 2014. Over 25,000 attendees come from the U.S. and all over the globe each year to participate in programs and exhibits. John Sandstrom, a college associate faculty member from the library is an elected member of the ALA Council. Dean Elizabeth Titus will be an ALA/LLAMA panelist talking about communicating assessment outcomes and visualization of library data. She also will be an “Ask the Experts: Library Fundraising” panelist in an ALA/LLAMA/FRFDS fundraising program. As chair of the IIDA/ALA Library Interiors Awards Committee, she and

other members of the committee will be co-hosting the Library Interiors Awards program where libraries are being honored for outstanding library interior design.

- Dean Titus and April Anaya, the Library Development Director had a meeting with a long time donor and friend.

Associate Provost, International and Border Program, Dr. Cornell Menking

- The Office of International and Border Programs was host to Dr. Carlos Gabriel Gómez Restrepo, the President of Universidad de La Salle in Bogota, Colombia from June 22-25. Better known as “Brother Carlos”, Gomez had visits with the President, Provost, and numerous ACES faculty. His visit was a follow-up on the recent Partners of the Americas grant won by NMSU and his university, as well as a chance to visit with 54 Universidad de La Salle students and faculty who are on campus this summer as part of NMSU’s intensive English program. He also delivered an inspiring talk to a full room about the role of education in the development of a post-conflict Colombia.
- Visiting Colombian and Ecuadorian students had World Cup fever and enjoyed some rowdy viewings of their teams’ soccer games in Corbett Student Center.

Senior Vice President Administration and Finance, Angela Throneberry

- **National Fishing Day** – Barnes & Noble Bookstore hosted a National Fishing Day

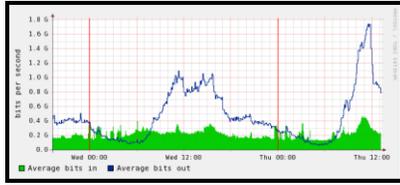


Event on June 18th for the NMSU School of Young Children and others from the community. The kids were given fish to color, decorated the board game, and then fished for Goldfish Crackers and Swedish Fish. We also read two fishing themed books. They had a great time!

- **NMSU Hospitality** – Grounds shop personnel fabricated and installed six Burrowing Owl dens on the East side of Aggie Memorial Stadium. Multiple dens were installed in an area where the owls are known to frequent.
- **Araceli Hernandez awarded ICT’s Golden Scooper Award** – ICT’s latest Golden Scooper recipient is Araceli Hernandez of the Student Technology and Planning group. The award is presented to the ICT staff member who, through course of action, best represents those attributes of retired Chief Information Officer, Shaun the “Scooper” Cooper: leadership, fellowship, mentorship, integrity, intelligence, humor, ingenuity, and a knack for mischief. The Golden Scooper recipient was selected by the prior holder of the award, Dan Bosch, Manager of Enterprise Network Planning. About Ms. Hernandez, he states, “Araceli’s willingness to immerse herself in tasks and work with groups outside of ICT is a great benefit to our department. . . she gets results through ingenuity and question asking.” Congratulations Araceli!



- **A Warm Welcome** - NMSU Barnes & Noble Bookstore received a shipment of back packs that will be stuffed with goodies, coupons and information. They will be left in the dorm rooms of incoming freshman during Aggie Welcome Week.
- **World Cup Viewership Helps Break NMSU Network Traffic Record** - Fans of



the soccer match between the USA and Germany have helped break the record for the amount of data passing through NMSU's network and added to the temporary overload of ESPN's website. At its peak during the match, close to 1.8 gigabits (1,800,000,000 bits per second)

of data were transmitted across the network, nearly doubling the 1 gigabit per second high set at NMSU in August 2013. The ability to handle data flow of the size experienced was made possible by ICT's network infrastructure upgrades completed last year. Nice going ICT and congrats to the USA soccer team for making it to the Round of 16 in the World Cup.

- **Facilities and Services Annual Picnic** - Facilities and Services held our Annual Employee Picnic on Friday, June 20, 2014 and had 307 employees. They were treated to a barbeque lunch, and were offered an opportunity to participate in a Salsa contest, Dessert Contest, Tug of War, Volleyball, and Horseshoes.



Senior Vice President External Relations / Chief of Staff, Ben Woods

No Activity to Report

Vice President Student Affairs / Enrollment Management, Dr. Bernadette Montoya

- On Thursday, SAEM held our annual Open Forum. For the third year in a row, Dr. Montoya briefed staff on news such as changes to the Lottery Scholarship and NMSU policy changes that affect staff and our students. In addition, this year we had an Idea Exchange where staff learned about other areas of SAEM and contributed ideas for collaboration.



- On Friday, Dr. Montoya was interviewed for KRWG-TV News regarding NMSU Respects, a program that teaches students about their rights and responsibilities as members of the Aggie community. The news story will also feature students who are acting in videos that being used in NMSU Respects. These efforts are part of NMSU's response to the federal Campus SAVE Act.

Student Engagement, Dr. Terry Cook

- About 350 incoming freshmen were on campus last Friday and Saturday for a New Student Registration program. Over 1900 students have signed up for a NSR. Because

upcoming NSRs are at or near capacity, a new program was added on Tuesday, July 29.

Health and Wellness, Ms. Lori McKee

- NMSU Rec-Sports Camp runs from June 16 to July 25. The camp provides a sports and development experience for boys and girls ages 5 to 12. About 50 participants will develop a wide variety of fundamental physical activity skills so they can enjoy a healthy lifestyle and a lifetime of physical fitness.



Office of Student Diversity and Outreach, Ms. Christina Chavez Kelley

- The MESA USA National Competition was held during the weekend in Portland, Oregon. The Southern New Mexico teams did a wonderful job and placed in several categories. Three of the students from Alamogordo will be attending NMSU this fall!

Staff Highlights

- The interim Aggie Outlaw Head Coach, Kerry Smith, has been invited to the Western Zone Diversity Select Camp and Diversity Summit to be held June 26–29 at California State University East Bay in Hayward California. The three-day program will include a combination of pool training, motivational and education sessions, networking and strategic planning sessions. Coaches will work with USA Swimming staff and national team members to learn how to promote diversity in the sport and reach minority groups underrepresented in swimming.



Kerry is a graduate of New Mexico State University she has been employed with the Aquatic Center since 2012.

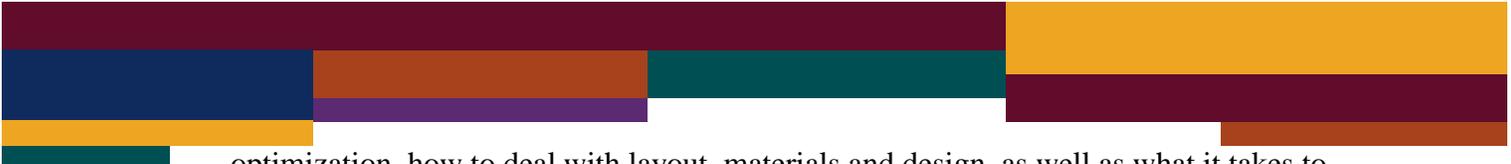
Vice President Economic Development, Dr. Kevin Boberg

Campus Visit from Chihuahua State Government Official

- This week, Arrowhead Center Innovation and Small Business Program Manager Griselda Martinez along with Arrowhead Director of Corporate Management Jorge Ramos met with Luis Quintana, a representative of the Chihuahua State Government. Ms Martinez and Mr. Ramos provided Mr. Quintana an overview of Arrowhead Center and organized a visit to the Food Safety Laboratories on NMSU’s main campus.

New Mexico Programming Group meeting

- This month’s New Mexico Programming Group presenters were Brendan Sullivan and Oscar Torres, both members of the NMSU PACE Engineering Team, which is part of a multi-national engineering competition with General Motors to develop a Portable Assisted Mobility Device for Urban Commuters. Mr. Sullivan and Mr. Torres presented an overview of the PACE Assisted Mobility Device "CUBO." Mr. Sullivan and Mr. Torres also discussed methods and approaches for manufacturing



optimization, how to deal with layout, materials and design, as well as what it takes to build a high power team capable of meeting deadlines and project objectives.

Speaker Series

- On Tuesday, Arrowhead Center held another edition of its Speaker Series. The featured speaker was Paul Furth, who gave the first of three summer workshops focusing on writing SBIR/STTR proposals. SBIR/STTR funding provides a means for start-up companies and small businesses to raise capital with no equity dilution. This workshop introduced the participants to SBIR/STTR programs. The major points of discussion at this workshop were, what is SBIR/STTR, who is eligible, and what are the topics?

Vice President Research, Dr. Vimal Chaitanya

- Vimal Chaitanya attended the first annual meeting of the Mountain West Clinical Translation Research in Las Vegas as a member of the internal advisory committee. The committee recommended funding for several new pilot grants including two from NMSU.
- Students and Faculty affiliated with the Energy Research Laboratory attended the Algal Biomass, Biofuels and Bioproducts International Conference in Santa Fe, NM from June 16-18. NMSU presentations at the conference totaled six including three invited presentations from Profs. P. Lammers, S. L. Ivey and M. Downes.
- NMSGC just received notification that Jovian Interiors from Velocimetry Experiment in New Mexico (JIVE), was selected for funding in the amount of \$749,893. This project is being funded by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR). Jason Jackiewicz in Astronomy is the Science principal investigator.
- Several PSL individuals from the Columbia Scientific Balloon Facility have returned to support the Jet propulsion Laboratory at the Pacific Missile Range Facility on the island of Kauai, Hawaii. The following link has a recent news article on the status of the payload: <http://www.space.com/26355-nasa-flying-saucer-test-ldsd-preview.html>
- Luis Vazquez, and Michelle Gavin, presented a workshop to fifteen doctoral students on June 19, 2014 on Human Subjects Research and the use of the MAESTRO electronic application submission system for human subjects' research. Feedback indicated that the workshop was very helpful in contributing to their process of progressing through the requirements for their dissertations and understanding human subjects' research.
- The New Mexico WRI awarded five faculty research grants in response to their FY15 Request for Proposals. Funding for the grants was made available through the New Mexico State Legislature. Awards support targeted water research to improve management of the waters of New Mexico. Grants were about \$30,000 each for one-year projects. Congratulations to New Mexico State University faculty grant recipients: Geno Picchioni, Blair Stringam, and Manoj Shukla from the Department of Plant and Environmental Sciences, and Brian Schutte from the Department of Entomology.



**Vice President University Advancement / Foundation Executive
Director, Ms. Cheryl Harrelson**

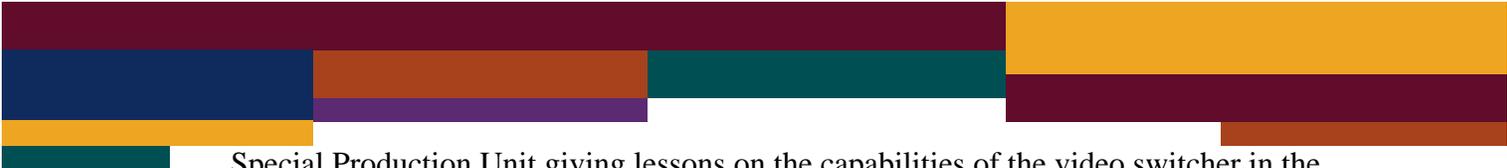
- Received a \$22,375 gift to the MILK program in the College of Education from the Stocker Foundation.
- \$10,000 gift was received for STEM outreach programs in the College of Engineering from Sandia National Labs/Lockheed.
- A discovery visit in El Paso with an NMSU Engineering Alumni resulted in a connection back to his home department of Chemical Engineering. Conversations with this alumni has resulted in a plant manager trainee opportunity for NMSU's Chemical Engineering graduates at SYOXSA <http://chme.nmsu.edu/job-opportunity-for-plant-manager-trainee/>.

Athletics Director, Dr. McKinley Boston, Jr.

- An Aggie Athletic Club Membership Drive half-time meeting was held with Team Captains—all the Teams are poised to finish strong, with the goal being to complete the Drive by July 11.
- The Development Team had a mini-retreat/planning session for the 2014-15 academic year, which included a detailed discussion and development of a plan to align the individual sport Booster Clubs with AAC and also the upcoming football season.
- Associate AD Fred Heinrich has had several meetings this week with donors/prospects, including a breakfast meeting with Mayor Ken Miyagishima to discuss ideas on how to get the athletics program more connected to the Las Cruces community.
- Associate AD Heinrich met with Football Success Fund leadership and Coach Doug Martin to schedule and plan a donor event at Coach Martin's home, the goal being to renew existing FSF members and secure new members.

Associate Vice President University Communications, Maureen Howard

- This week's Eye on Research in the Las Cruces Sun-News focused on Yu-Li Huang, an assistant professor of industrial engineering, and six NMSU students who are researching how to redesign the outpatient scheduling system in clinics to be more efficient and reduce patient waiting. Huang and his students are working on the project for Presbyterian Health System in Los Lunas, New Mexico.
- This week's Sunday feature in the Las Cruces Sun-News profiled Lynda Garvin. The Sandoval County Extension agriculture and horticulture agent brings a wide variety of Extension-type experiences to her new position in northern New Mexico. Ten years in the Peace Corps and numerous additional years of service with Food for the Hungry and CARE international programs have prepared Garvin to work with the diverse cultures of New Mexico.
- On June 23 and 24 our Athletics Media Relations team hosted Kenny Klein, associate athletic director for media relations at the University of Louisville, who presented and brainstormed with the group on a variety of hot topics and best practices in sports information.
- Progress continues on prepping the new HD production truck. A representative from the Ross Corporation (manufacturers of video equipment) spent two days with the



Special Production Unit giving lessons on the capabilities of the video switcher in the new HD truck. This is another step toward preparing for the first telecast in August.

- University Communications is participating in the pilot phase of the WEAVE online assessment system, which included an introduction to the WEAVE online assessment software and a session on the principles of effective assessment and online reporting, offered by the Teaching Academy. The assessment system is focused on measuring student learning.

Assistant Vice President Government Relations, Ricardo Rel

- On June 25, Senator Tom Harkin introduced the Higher Education Affordability Act, which is the discussion draft for the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act. The legislation would expand some federal student aid programs and also increase regulatory oversight for institutions. The Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee is accepting feedback until August 29. The House Education and the Workforce Committee and the House Higher Education Committee announced their plans that they would introduce three bill, rather than a comprehensive Higher Ed Reauthorization Bill.

Upcoming Legislative Meetings:

- July 1: Joint Meeting of the New Mexico Finance Authority Oversight Committee and the Water and Natural Resources Committee – Albuquerque.
 - Major focus on water issues.
- July 2: Water and Natural Resource Committee – Albuquerque.
 - Major focus on water issues.
- July 8: Revenue Stabilization and Tax Policy Committee – Farmington.
- July 9: Joint Legislative Finance Committee and Revenue Stabilization Tax Policy Committee – Farmington.
- July 10-11: Legislative Finance Committee – Farmington.
- July 14-16: Indian Affairs Committee.
- July 17-18: Legislative Health and Human Services Committee – Taos.

Director/Secretary New Mexico Department of Agriculture, Jeff M. Witte

- I attended the opening reception for the new exhibit at the New Mexico Farm and Ranch museum by Tony Laumbach. The exhibit is Cowboys: The Real Deal, and it showcases New Mexico's rich cowboy culture, and it will be up for a year. Stop in at the museum!
- I also visited with Kulbhushan Grover, an assistant professor of sustainable crop production in NMSU's Department of Plant and Environmental Sciences, about Grover's test study on guar. Based on his experience in India, Grover believes guar could be a viable alternative for farmers in New Mexico, both for its potential as livestock feed and as a nitrogen fixer for the soil.



Grover's research project is funded in part by a USDA Specialty Crops grant. NMDA oversees fiscal matters related to Specialty Crops grants awarded in New Mexico.

- NMDA staff visited Nichols Ranch and Orchards to learn about a program to rescue food that would rot “on the vine” for lack of labor to pick it. Forest Service staff collected cherries and apricots; La Montanita Co-op purchased the fruit and donated to Roadrunner Food Bank what wasn’t retail-able – a good model for other growers with food in the fields that won’t sell at retail.
- NMDA staff is preparing for the 2nd annual Agriculture Day takes place Thursday, August 28, beginning at 3 p.m. and continuing until kickoff at 6 p.m. Dozens of groups representing all facets of New Mexico agriculture will set up fun, informative booths between Aggie Memorial Stadium and the Pan American Center.
- This year’s Agriculture Day will build on last year’s inaugural event, which featured free samples of New Mexico ice cream, chile, and other local foods; short horseback rides (both recreational and therapeutic); a cow-milking demonstration; and an up-close look at the shrimp being raised commercially at NMSU’s Agricultural Experiment Station. Last year’s event also featured roping demonstrations and face-painting.