

## Gustin is third Aggie elected to National FFA team

**A**mong 42 candidates from across the country, New Mexico State University student Caleb Gustin became one of just six chosen to serve on the 2014-2015 National FFA Officer Team.

He is one of three NMSU students in the last five years to have made the national team.

Serving as the western region vice president, Gustin is traveling the United States, speaking, putting on workshops and spending time with fellow FFA members, building relationships with agricultural industry leaders and sponsors.

Much like his predecessors, Ryan Best, 2011-2012 national FFA president, and Shannon Norris, 2010-2011 vice-president, Gustin served in state and district level roles.

“Those three are all very self-motivated individuals,” State FFA Executive Secretary Jerrod Smith said. “They set a goal and were willing to work at it.”

Gustin, from Moriarty, N.M., is an Agricultural Economics and Agricultural Business major and represents the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences as a student ambassador. He also works part-time for the New Mexico Department of Agriculture.

COURTESY PHOTO



**Western Region Vice President Caleb Gustin**

“FFA has contributed greatly to my career at NMSU,” Gustin said. “It has instilled in me a love for agriculture that influences me into an agriculture-related field. It has also taught me the value of communication and relationship building, which has allowed me to have a great college career as NMSU.”

Best, originally from Portales,

N.M., graduated with a bachelor’s degree in Agricultural and Extension Education and minor in Agricultural Economics and Agricultural Business in the College of ACES.

He is in his first year of teaching agriculture for a high school in Texas.

Norris, of Cliff, N.M., is currently enrolled in a master’s program at Oklahoma State University. She received her bachelor’s degree in Agricultural and Extension Education in 2013.

“I love the relationship building and the opportunity for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education,” Gustin said. “Agricultural education is more than a class, it is a family that is ‘United in Blue and Striving for Gold.’”

Caleb is the son of Mike and Lisa Gustin. His sister, Jessica, is a freshman at NMSU studying to be a county Extension agent with

the Cooperative Extension Service. In his spare time, he enjoys hunting, fishing, playing intramural football and volunteering around the community.

“The big thing about FFA, is that it gives students a place to belong, excel and find success in premier leadership,” Smith said.

*Jocelyn N. Apodaca*

## Message from Dean Catlett

The College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences (ACES) has many wonderful supporters locally, statewide and nationally. The Council for Agricultural Research, Extension and Teaching (CARET) is a national group that works on behalf of land-grant universities to help secure funding and support for agriculture.

ACES has two delegates that serve as CARET representatives – Larry Hobson and Dina Chacon-Reitzel.



Catlett

Larry is a strong supporter of ACES and has been a great advocate for agriculture throughout his life and we appreciate his willingness to become a CARET delegate two years ago. Dina has served as a CARET delegate for over a decade and this year will assume the Chairmanship of national CARET organization. We congratulate Dina on being elected to this important position and appreciate all that Larry and Dina do for ACES and NMSU. Likewise, so many of our supporters helped during the last state legislative session and we are very thankful for their unselfish giving of time and talent for ACES and NMSU.

Dr. Terry Crawford is retiring as head of the Department of Agricultural Economics and Agricultural Business (AEAB) effective July 1, 2015, and we deeply appreciate his service. A national search is underway to select a department head for AEAB.

A national search was completed for the head of the Department of Animal and Range Sciences (ANRS) and Dr. Glen Duff was selected and will begin summer, 2015. Dr. Dennis Hallford served as Interim Head of ANSC while the national search was conducted and we want to say a great big “THANK YOU” for his leadership.

The School of Hotel, Restaurant and Tourism Management (HRTM) has a national search going on for a new Director and Head and we are hopeful a new person can be named this summer.

Our generous alumni and friends gave more for scholarships and support in 2014 than at any time in history thus securing that ACES and NMSU can continue to be a place of discovery for many generations to come. Please stop and say hello when you are on campus!



JOCELYN APODACA

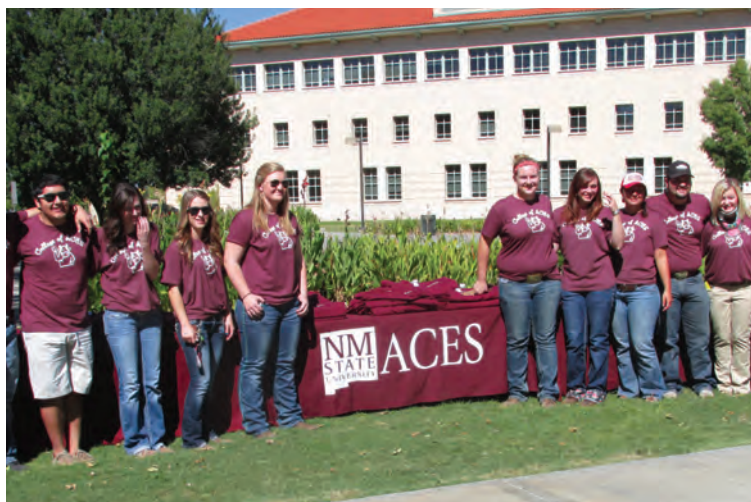
New Mexico State University Vice President of Student Affairs and Management Bernadette Montoya and President Garrey Carruthers join together to sing the Aggie Fight Song, kicking off the annual freshmen “branding” event at the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences.

As a way to welcome new ACES students to the college, the students receive a T-shirt to be “branded” with the ACES Sam Steel brand in paint, part of the Sam Steel initiation ceremony. Sam Steel, who would have been NMSU’s first graduate, was shot and killed at just 17 years of age in 1893.



JOCELYN APODACA

President Carruthers takes the honor of “branding” the first freshman.



JOCELYN APODACA

Student Ambassadors from the College of ACES line up in preparation for the annual Branding Event, welcoming freshmen to the university, college and their respective disciplines.



# Young Farmers & Ranchers: advocates for agriculture

Whether it's a family tradition or needing a new outlet after high school, the Young Farmers & Ranchers program within the New Mexico Farm and Livestock Bureau allows young adults, 18-35, to continue their passion for agriculture.

It was only natural for Matt Harris to join the group when he arrived at New Mexico State University as a freshman, because he was following in his parents' footsteps. Harris, the second vice chair of the group, also grew up watching his grandparents participate in state and national committees with the New Mexico Farm and Livestock Bureau. For Danielle Lowry, chair of the group, she joined after graduating from high school because of a desire to be involved with a program after her 4-H days were over.

The Young Farmers & Ranchers program provides training to young adults for leadership roles in agriculture, to nurture members through the industry and to help develop a more effective Farm Bureau to preserve individual freedoms and expand opportunities in agriculture.

"Our mission is to advocate for agriculture," Lowry said. "It's a family of promoting agriculture."

The Young Farmers & Ranchers meet three to four times annually and conduct monthly conference calls. Members often attend events across the state and nation such as county fairs, state events and Ag Day at NMSU, held each fall.

"Our goal is to do anything we can do in the public eye to put forth a positive message about agriculture," Lowry said. "We went to the state capital this year and worked on a couple of pieces of legislation."

During the 2015 Legislative session, the Young Farmers & Ranchers supported House Bill 564 or the Right to Farm bill. Despite the bill passing the House, the legislation died in a Senate committee. The group will continue advocating for the Right to Farm legislation in the coming legislative sessions.

Another aspect of the Young Farm-



COURTESY PHOTO

Members of the Young Farmers & Ranchers present a check for \$500 to the RoadRunner Food Bank in Albuquerque.

ers & Ranchers program is the opportunity for members to network with other farmers and ranchers around the country, which includes a very active social media presence on Facebook.

"We've been able to travel to a lot of different places and meet a wide variety of people from all over the country," said Harris, an NMSU agriculture business junior from San Antonio. "The stories they have shared about how they run their operations and being able to take some of that information back home and apply to our own family farm has been a big help."

*Tiffany Acosta*

## NMSU Rodeo supporters gather for annual reunion

More than 110 alumni and friends gathered for the NMSU Cowboy & Rodeo Reunion on April 24 and 25.

"A special thanks to all who attended the social as well as many nights of NMSU Rodeo. We would like to thank Tye Terrell, Calvin Bailey, Duke Sundt, Joe Delk, Frank Du Bois and many others for making this reunion possible," said Terra V. Winter, assistant dean. "We hope to see you all in 2017 for the 75th anniversary of NMSU Rodeo!"

COURTESY PHOTO



Frank Du Bois and Kodie Edmondson enjoy the NMSU Cowboy and Rodeo Reunion.

## Message from your Ambassador

Being a part of the 2014-2015 ACES Ambassador team has been a great experience through my time here at New Mexico State University.

When I first applied for the team, I was unclear of what exactly I would be doing as an Ambassador for the college, but once I was accepted to the team, and we went through training, everything became clear.

We represent the college of ACES in many aspects, one of them includes recruiting students to become interested in attending New Mexico State University.



Munoz

In order to accomplish this task, we don't just sit behind a desk and start making phone calls. Instead, what we do is travel to events such as the New Mexico State Fair & Expo,

and talk to students who show livestock at the fair.

That's not the only fair we travel to. The Southern New Mexico State Fair & Expo and Eastern New Mexico State Fair are on the list. This way we are able to have that interaction with students, and since we are students ourselves, we have a connection with them.

We also get the opportunity to visit our home schools to discuss the opportunities to attend New Mexico State University to the seniors at the school.

Being an Ambassador has given me the chance to become active throughout the college, as well as learn about the history of the university and the college, providing the knowledge that makes me proud to be an Aggie.

Go Aggies!  
Uriel Munoz

## Ranch Management Camp introduces next generation

VALLES CALDERA NATIONAL PRESERVE – The New Mexico Youth Ranch Management Camp is a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

An enthusiastic group of instructors from New Mexico State University's Cooperative Extension Service and the picturesque landscape of the Valles Caldera National Preserve in northern New Mexico create a unique event each summer for the future ranch managers.

"We are proud to offer this one-of-a-kind program for the future cattle producers of our state," said Jon Boren, Cooperative Extension Service director. "The collaboration between our Extension specialists, county Extension agents and members of the ranching industry has provided an opportunity for the youth to see the many aspects of managing a ranch."

The youth ranch management program focuses on providing hands-on training for future ranch managers and

stewards of New Mexico's natural resources. The program is an expansion of the research and education contractual agreement between NMSU and the Valles Caldera Trust.

Camp participants, ages 15-19, selected for the program come from across the state to learn science-based skills used successfully on modern-day ranches to improve beef production, natural resource stewardship, wildlife management and fiscal management.

"We challenge these young people with a rigorous program for five full days," said camp director Jack Blandford, Luna County Extension program director. "They never seem to weaken. They are like sponges absorbing knowledge all week."

The participants are challenged 12 hours a day with a college-level curriculum of hands-on activities and lectures. The camp culminates with the youth presenting their ranch plan to a panel of judges made up of successful New Mexico ranch managers, and an audience that includes dignitaries and parents.

This year's camp will be from May 31-June 5. For more information, visit [nmyrm.nmsu.edu](http://nmyrm.nmsu.edu).



Eric Scholljegerdes, New Mexico State University animal and range science assistant professor, talks to New Mexico Youth Ranch Camp youth about a cow's digestive system.

JANE MOORMAN

Jane Moorman



# Outstanding senior's dedication paves path to success

Last year, Jacqueline Alford's work ethic and dedication did not go unnoticed as she was named Outstanding Senior in the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences.

A graduate student majoring in ruminant nutrition, Alford did not grow up on a ranch or spend much time with livestock until she came to New Mexico State University after spending a year at Texas State University.

"I had gotten a full ride to NMSU and decided to go to Texas State instead," she said. "But, after a year, I was not convinced. At that time, I received a call from NMSU, and I came to visit. I fell in love. After taking some courses, my career path changed – I never thought I would want to be a large animal veterinarian or work and research livestock."

The El Paso native always had a plan: she would attend Texas State and become a small animal veterinarian, but as she learned, life doesn't always work that way.

"One of the best moments of my career was realizing how passionate I was about research," she said. "Dr. Clint Loest, in his courses, really sparked my interest in animal nutrition. He changed my outlook and opened my mind to a new avenue."

Her undergraduate career didn't come without a challenge. Like many NMSU students, juggling multiple jobs while having a full-time class schedule is the norm.

"What sets Jacqueline apart is that she goes above and beyond what is expected to accomplish all tasks," said Loest, professor of ruminant nutrition in the Department of Animal and Range Sciences and Alford's mentor. "She is always giving 100 percent of her effort to everything she does. As a result, she is a student with all 'A's' in her classes who still finds time



**Jacqueline Alford was named Outstanding Senior of the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences (ACES) last year.**

to conduct research in animal science and participate in organizations such as the Animal and Range Sciences Graduate Student Association."

Now, as a graduate student studying ruminant nutrition, her goal is to be a well-rounded animal science major, taking courses that will expand her knowledge about large animals beyond the established curriculum.

"I feel that I am where I am supposed to be," she said about continuing her studies at NMSU. "Whether I choose to go to veterinary school or get a Ph.D., the education I received as an undergrad and now as a graduate student, along with my professors' support, makes me feel confident about my choices and professional future."

*Angela Simental*

## Ride for the Clover will tour northern New Mexico

The third annual Ride for the 4-H Clover motorcycle tour will offer a change of scenery for participants this summer, switching from a southern New Mexico route to one in the northern half of the state.

Riders in the Aug. 28-30 event will enjoy sweeping vistas of New Mexico mountains, a ride across the Rio Grande Gorge Bridge and the historic ambiance of Santa Fe, Taos and other northern New Mexico communities.

The proposed route will start from

Bernalillo then travel to Jemez Pueblo, Valles Caldera (the first stop on the journey), Los Alamos, Espanola and Abiquiu, where they'll stop for a program and lunch. The next leg of the ride features the bridge crossing and arrival at the Taos County Cooperative Extension Service Office for a program and dinner. Riders will stay overnight in Taos, and head out early the next morning, bound for NMSU's Alcalde Sustainable Agriculture Science Center for a break and lunch.

The final stop in the tour will be at

the Santa Fe Cooperative Extension Service office where a program, lunch and closing remarks will be on the agenda.

In addition to spectacular scenery and a chance to experience the culture of northern New Mexico, the tour offers riders a chance to support and learn more about Cooperative Extension Service programs.

To register, call 575-646-3015 or visit the website at [rideforthecllover.nmsu.edu](http://rideforthecllover.nmsu.edu).

*Darrell J. Pehr*

# EPPWS department adds film festival to outreach

Inspired by May Berenbaum at the University of Illinois who recently won the National Medal of Science not only for her contributions to science, but her public outreach about science, Gerald Sims, department head of the Entomology, Plant Pathology and Weed Science Department, along with Scott Bundy, professor of entomology, decided to bring a bug film festival to New Mexico State University.

“For our purposes here, the film festival became a proven way to draw members of the community to campus and promote enthusiasm for science as part of an overall effort to enhance scientific literacy,” Sims said. “Dr. Bundy wanted to bring this idea to Las Cruces, and I, having worked at the University of Illinois for 20 years, attended that film festival at least 10 times, and knew it was a great idea.”

The first event was in November 2013, featuring the movie “Tremors,”

a film about giant underground worms. At the film festival, Steve Thomas, distinguished professor of nematology, used part of his presentation to show a giant preserved parasitic nematode to wow the audience.

In November 2014, at the second event, Bundy served as the host, showing “Arachnophobia” and “Eight Legged Freaks.”

This concept provides a platform for NMSU professors to show their expertise and is a good recruiting tool.

“Campy movies about insect, worm, plant or microbial monsters are fun and enticing,” Sims said. “It is a pleasant way to draw members of the community in to the academic environment where they can become more familiar with the human side of academia and learn some science in the process. It is also a good way to expose



Department Head Gerald Sims greets attendees at a previous film festival.

youth to scientific careers that they ordinarily might not think of.”

As he prepares for the festival’s third year, Sims hopes for attendance growth as a way to connect with the community and make people feel more comfortable about accessing campus resources.

*Angela Simental*

# First college car brings back NMSU memories

Not everyone can say they still own the car they drove in college. Then again, for most people, it would probably be a blessing to never again have to see the car they drove in college. Apparently, Doug Keeling isn’t like most people.

Keeling graduated in 1969 with a degree in agricultural economics from New Mexico State University. Today he’s a farmer and lives in Casa Grande, Arizona. More than four and a half decades later, he’s also the proud owner of a 1929 Ford Model A – it was the first



Doug Keeling, right, a 1969 NMSU graduate, shows NMSU President Garrey Carruthers the 1929 Ford Model A Keeling drove while in college.

car he ever owned.

Keeling’s dad retired from the Army in El Paso. When it was time to go to college, he chose NMSU and loaded up the Model A to make the 45-mile trip.

“Luckily I had a place in Mesilla Park,” he said. “If I had had to make that trip back and forth to El Paso every day, I think it would have killed me.”

After graduation, Keeling went to work for Farm Credit in Wichita, Kansas. The job took him to several different cities over the next few years, each with a particularly cold winter.

“Then one January my mom called and said they needed some help on the farm in Arizona,” he said. “It was cold and snowing in Kansas when I flew out to see her in Arizona. When I got off the plane, it was warm. There were oranges growing on the trees and the bougainvillea plants were in bloom. I’ve been here ever since.”

During a trip to Arizona last year, NMSU President Garrey Carruthers visited Keeling and got to see the Model A firsthand. Carruthers is a car aficionado himself, and appreciated Keeling’s car.

A couple of additional generations of the Keeling family are at New Mexico State University today. Keeling’s daughter is in the NMSU nursing program and his granddaughter is in plant and environmental sciences.

*Justin Bannister*



# College reaches out through programs aimed at teens

Two programs that help middle- and high-school students in New Mexico prepare for college and career success are getting a boost from faculty and students in the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences.

The Family, Career and Community Leaders of America organization, a national program that serves 35 schools and more than 600 members in New Mexico, is a career and technical student organization that provides personal growth, leadership development and career preparation opportunities for students in family and consumer sciences education.

Sharon Bartley, an associate professor and director of NMSU's Family and Consumer Sciences Education program, said the university supports the organization by providing \$1,000 scholarships to each of the organization's state officers and hosting competitive events that recognize members for proficiency and achievements in chapter and individual projects, leadership skills and career preparation.

She said the engagement with the students is a win-win for NMSU – in addition to the support that the FCCLA students get from the faculty and students at the university, the partnership offers a service opportunity for the NMSU students and a chance to connect with teachers across the state.

Bartley finds it to be a great recruiting opportunity, too.

"They see my face and the faces of my students who accompany me to these events, and they know someone at our university is interested in and cares about them," she said. "By hosting events and providing scholarships, we feel that the middle and secondary students across the state begin to see NMSU as their home university."

Another program, the National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation's ProStart Initiative,



COURTESY PHOTO

**Chef John Hartley, a college assistant professor in the NMSU School of Hotel, Restaurant and Tourism Management, talks to a group of high school culinary students during the ProStart boot camp in February. The boot camp helped the students prepare for their state-level ProStart competition in April.**

provides a two-year curriculum designed to teach high school students the culinary and management skills needed for a career in the restaurant and food service industry.

The School of Hotel, Restaurant and Tourism Management in the College of ACES supports ProStart by hosting a boot camp in February to help students from around New Mexico prepare for the state-level competition in April.

Christina Fletcher, program coordinator in the School of HRTM, said the college hosted about 129

students and educators at the most recent boot camp, helping the students practice their skills in safety and sanitation, knife use, menu and recipe presentation, critical thinking and other areas.

Fletcher said the boot camp is also an opportunity for NMSU students, particularly those in the NMSU chapter of the National Society of Minorities in Hospitality student organization, to get involved, volunteering on campus and at the regional ProStart competition in Albuquerque.

*Amanda Bradford*

## Agriculture Day set for Oct. 31 before home football game

This year's Agriculture Day will be Saturday, Oct. 31, in the parking lot between Aggie Memorial Stadium and the Pan American Center.

The annual event is held prior to a home football game. This year, the Aggies will take on the Idaho Vandals in a 6 p.m. game.

The game day experience will include 25 to 30 agricultural-based booths including our Therapeutic Riding Program, Animal & Range Science animals, and many interactive displays.

Attendees can expect to trick or treat to each display making it a family friendly place to spend their Halloween evening.

## Sam Steel Way

Darrell J. Pehr, Editor  
Gerald Rel, Graphic Designer  
University Communications and  
Marketing Services  
MSC 3K, P.O. Box 30001  
Las Cruces, NM 88003-8001  
Telephone: 575-646-3221  
Fax: 575-646-2099  
E-mail: ucomm@nmsu.edu  
aces.nmsu.edu

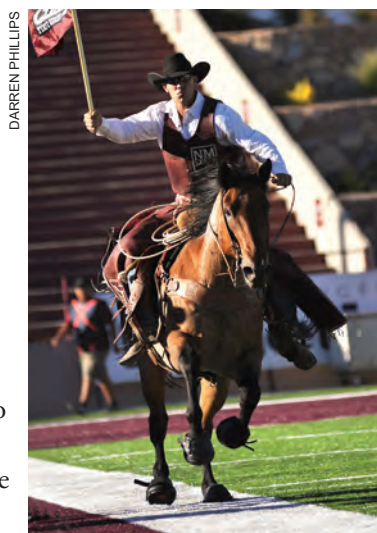
PP/5-15/22079

# Special shoes give Keystone the run of the stadium

The lights are beaming down on Aggie Memorial Stadium and fans intently wait in their seats for Keystone, the horse, to dash forward in his new turf shoes, leading the football team out onto the field.

A tradition that began in the early 2000s to incorporate more agriculture into athletics, the appearance of Keystone on the field has become a crowd favorite as NMSU rodeo coach Jim Dewey Brown guides Keystone around the field before the game.

“We wanted to enhance the fan



**Keystone circles the field just prior to kickoff at the 2014 football season opener at Aggie Memorial Stadium.**

experience by highlighting Keystone's entrance by having him run down the center of the field rather than on the sidelines," said DJ Downs, director of marketing and promotions at NMSU. "In the past, we obviously couldn't have Keystone run on the playing field because his hooves would create significant holes on the playing surface. However, with the turf, we knew this was a possibility."

Once the new synthetic turf was installed, Coach Jim Brown and Associate Athletic Director

of Marketing and Promotions Steve Macy discussed the turf shoe, which would allow Keystone to trot through the field freely without causing any damage.

Downs contacted Texas Tech University, a school with a similar football game entrance using a live horse. Speaking with the veterinarian who cares for their horse, he learned about measures they take to protect the horse and the turf.

The multi-purpose hoof boot allows the horse to gallop through various terrain. It's easy to slip on and comfortable, just as a protective bell boot would be.

At last year's first football game against the Cal Poly Mustangs, Keystone made his debut, turf shoes in place.

*Jocelyn Apodaca*