

The 21 Club
Social, Dinner and a Talk
Tuesday February 16, 2009

The first meeting of the Spring Semester will begin at 5:30 PM in the UNM Student Union Building. The meeting will include a wine and beer social in the Sandia Room (#3019) followed by a plated dinner in the Santa Ana Room (#3012) at 6:30 PM and an after dinner talk given by [Les McFadden](#) (Abstract on Page 2).

The plated dinner will consist of Chicken Picatta (a boneless breast of chicken sauteed with capers and lemon butter) accompanied by rice, a fresh garden salad with ranch dressing, chef's vegetables, rolls, your choice of wine, coffee, iced tea, and carrot cake for dessert. A portobello mushroom stuffed with savory vegetables and cheese is the vegetarian entrée.



Go to <http://21club.unm.edu/sub.html> or mail your check (\$18 per reservation) to:

The 21 Club
Physics and Astronomy MSC07 42201
University of New Mexico
Albuquerque, NM 87131-0001

Specify Chicken Picata or the vegetarian entrée. Note: to guarantee your reservation(s) your online payment or your check (payable to "The 21 Club") must be **received** by Tuesday, February 9, 2010.

Influences of Climate on Landscapes of the Southern Colorado Plateau

Les McFadden

Professor of Earth and Planetary Sciences

The University of New Mexico

Relatively small-scale Holocene (the last 10000 years) climate changes have strongly influenced landscape evolution in the dryland areas of the Colorado Plateau. Our geological and biological studies of landscapes, soils and trees in northeastern Arizona on the southern Colorado show that the nature of the rocks in this region plays a heretofore unrecognized, but profound role with respect to how climate and climate changes affects plants and landscapes. In many areas of the Colorado Plateau, one observes two basic kinds of slopes that reflect their relative exposure to the sun during the day: (1) north-facing hillslopes with soils, relatively low gradients and pinon forests; and (2) south-facing, generally steeper slopes on bedrock. We believe that the slopes that face different directions essentially represent transitional regions between these very different slopes and vegetation communities, and that the signatures of very recent climate changes and ongoing global warming can be recognized in these areas.