**INTERIM DEPT. HEAD**

With the retirement of Tim Ross, Department Head, on July 1, 2014, Dennis Hallford will assume the duties of interim department head until a new individual is selected through a national search. A search committee is currently being formed with Steve Loring of the Agricultural Experiment Station serving as chair.

**TRAVELS**

Andrés Cibils taught a two-day workshop on June 23-24 for faculty and graduate students at UACH in Cuidad Chihuahua, Chihuahua, Mexico on the use of USDA-developed software for analysis of nadir vegetation photographs. He will also be attending the 48th Congress of the International Society for Applied Ethology (ISAE) meeting Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain on July 29-August 2. He will present a paper titled “Mother-infant social interactions in rangeland-raised beef cattle.”

Ryan Ashley will attend the Society for Study of Reproduction International Conference in Grand Rapids, Michigan on July 19-22.

**NEW FACULTY MEMBER**

Please welcome Dr. Adam Summers from the University of Nebraska who began his duties on July 7, 2014. Adam completed a post-doctoral research associate at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln working with Dr. Andrea Cupp. He received his B.S. and M.S. degrees in animal science from Utah State University (Logan, UT) and his Ph.D. in animal science/reproductive physiology from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 2012. He has served as teaching assistant in courses such as endocrinology, beef production, and sheep production. Adam was recipient of the Animal Reproduction in Agriculture Research Fellowship by the Society for the Study of Reproduction in 2013, the Midwest ASAS Young Scholar Award in 2013, and has placed 1st, 2nd (twice), and 3rd in the Western Section ASAS Applied Animal Science Paper category. He is also the author and co-author of numerous journal articles, abstracts, proceedings, and departmental/extension publications. Dr. Summers is located in Knox 326, his phone number is 646-1549 and e-mail address is asummers@nmsu.edu.

**TRAINING CLASS**

A training class for the soldiers of Charlie Company 410 Civil Affairs Battalion was conducted by member of the department on June 7. The soldiers were trained in basic animal health,
grazing, and anatomy to prepare them for deployment into Central and South American. Dennis Hallford, Tim Ross, Andrés Cibils, Raed Halasheh, and Whit Stewart led the training.

WSASAS

The Western Section, American Society of Animal Science annual meeting was held in San Angelo, Texas on the campus of Angelo State University on June 25-27. Papers presented included (*designates presenter):

“Effects of dietary urea concentration and zilpaterol hydrochloride on performance and carcass characteristics of finishing steers,” Kendall Samuelson*, Mike Hubbert, and Clint Löest (graduate student competition)


“Evaluation of titanium dioxide as a digestibility marker for horses,” Trevor Morgan*, Allison Salazar, Eric Scholljegerdes, Clint Löest, Laura White, Francesca Melgar, and Shanna Ivey (graduate student competition)

“Effects of controlled body weight gain on growth and reproductive performance of heifers grazing native rangeland during the pre-breeding period,” Leah Schmitz*, Colleen Buck, Clayton Gardner, James Graves, Richard Dunlap, Shad Cox, Dennis Hallford, and Eric Scholljegerdes (graduate student competition)

“Chemokine ligand twelve (CXCL12) protein in ovine placenta increases during early gestation: Role in maternal-fetal crosstalk?,” Kelsey Quinn*, L. P. Reynolds, A. Grazul-Bilska, P. P. Borowicz, S. T. Dorsam, and Ryan Ashley (graduate student competition)

“Effects of ad libitum supplement containing increasing levels of microalgae, Scenedesmus sp., on site and extent of digestion in beef heifers consuming a forage-based diet,” Colleen Buck *, Nicole Rodriguez, Leah Schmitz, Allison Salazar, Katelin Marchetti, Francesca Melgar, B. E. Bonfantini, Shanna Ivey, Megan Coleson, Clayton Gardner, James Graves, and Eric Scholljegerdes (graduate student competition)

“Assessment of bacterial diversity of horses as influence by age,” A. L. Garza*, Allison Salazar, Katelin Marchetti, Laura White, and Shanna Ivey (undergraduate poster competition)

“Expression of membrane progesterone receptors and select angiogenic factors are altered in ewes treated with hCG,” Nicole Sanchez*, Megan Coleson, Tim Ross, Kelsey Quinn, Amanda Ashley, and Ryan Ashley (undergraduate poster competition)

“Effects of glucose and insulin bolus on individual response between mature and senior horses being fed alfalfa hay,” Matthew Crouse*, Allison Salazar, Dennis Hallford, Shanna Ivey, and Laura White (undergraduate poster competition)

“Effects of inclusion of microalgae Scenedesmus on fatty acid digestion in beef heifers consuming a forage-based diet,” Nicole Rodriguez*, Colleen Buck, Francesca Melgar, Leah Schmitz, Allison Salazar, Katelin Marchetti, Shanna Ivey, Megan Coleson, Clayton Gardner, James Graves, and
Eric Scholljegerdes (undergraduate poster competition)

“Comparable digestibility of alfalfa hay by senior and mature horses,” Francesca Melgar*, Allison Salazar, Lyndi Owensby, Shanna Ivey, and Laura White (undergraduate poster competition)

“Capsaicin influences rumen microbial fermentation and gas production in vitro,” J. B. Alford*, Brenna Slayton-Magitman, S. Gutierrez, Jose Castro, F. A. Alltaifeh, and Clint Löest (undergraduate poster competition)


“Effect of wheat middling supplementation on metabolizable protein of heifers grazing winter wheat pasture,” Fathi Amraga*, Jose Caballero, and Sergio Soto-Navarro

“Effects of hCG administration in ewes post mating on production of 3β-hydroxysteroid dehydrogenase, steroidogenic acute regulatory protein, and interferon-stimulated gene 15,” Megan Coleson*, Ryan Ashley, and Tim Ross (poster)

“Plasma amino acids of wether lambs supplemented with novel feed products to reduce locoweed toxicity,” Fatima Allataifeh*, Bret Taylor, Liang Chen, Mohammed Sawalhah, and Clint Löest (poster)

“Capsaicin supplementation does not reduce lipopolysaccharide-induced inflammation in growing beef steers,” Kendall Samuelson*, Carolina Ikard, J.B. Alford, Jose Castro, S. Gutierrez, Fatima Allataifeh, Brenna Slayton-Magitman, N.C. Burdick Sanchez, J. A. Carroll, Amanda Ashley, Eric Scholljegerdes, Dennis Hallford, and Clint Löest (poster)

Serving as section chairs were Ryan Ashley (Graduate Student Paper Competition), James Graves and Kelsey Quinn (Graduate Student “Lunch and Learn”, Dennis Hallford (Physiology), Eric Scholljegerdes, Sergio Soto-Navarro (Ruminant and Non-Ruminant Nutrition). Shanna Ivey served as chair of the Advisory and Coordinating Committee. James and Kelsey serve as the Western Section Graduate Student Representatives to the region and national ASAS.

WSASAS AWARDS

Eric Scholljegerdes, Assistant Professor of Animal Science received the WSASAS “Young Scientist Award.” Eric joined the NMSU faculty in 2010 as member of the ruminant nutrition group. He serves as steering committee chair of the Corona Range and Livestock Research Center and as member of the WSASAS Graduate Student Competition Committee and Advisory and Coordinating Committee. He has served as Associate Editor of the Journal of Animal Science and currently serves as Associate Editor for the Journal of Rangeland Ecology and Management. His research focuses on investigation of supplemental strategies that improve use of forages by ruminants.

The WSASAS “Distinguished Service Award” was presented to Tim Ross, Distinguished Achievement Professor in Animal and Range Science who recently retired from the department. Tim came to
NMSU in 1982 as a sheep physiologist and coached the Wool Judging Team. His research is directed toward investigating reproductive wastage in sheep. His teaching ability has been recognized by the College of ACES, Gamma Sigma Delta, and WSASAS. Tim served the WSASAS as secretary-treasurer, vice-president, and president and was on editorial board of the Sheep and Goat Research Journal. He has advised 28 M.S. and 13 Ph.D. students during his tenure at NMSU.

In the Graduate Student Competition, Kendall Samuleson and Kelsey Quinn finished First and Second, respectively. NMSU again received the Institutional Graduate Student Paper Award for the 5th consecutive year for earning most points in the competition.

In the first ever Undergraduate Student Poster Competition, Francesca Melgar placed First, Second Place went to Nicole Sancez, and Matthew Crouse received Third Place. Six of the eight posters presented in this category were from NMSU.

The NMSU Academic Quadrathlon team comprised of Matthew Crouse, Consuelo Gurule, Francesca Melgar, and Nicole Rodriguez were First in the Written Exam portion of the competition.

Former NMSU student, Leticia (Ely) Camacho was Ph.D. recipient of the 2014 WSASAS Young Scholar Program. She earned her M.S. degree in 2009 under the advisement of Dennis Hallford and her Ph.D. at North Dakota State in 2013.