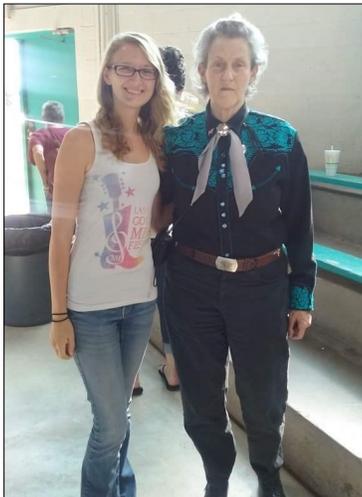




## Well-known animal scientist and lecturer visits NMSU campus

World renowned author and speaker, Dr. Temple Grandin, visited New Mexico State University August 24-26, where she spoke to multiple university classes as well as the general public during open forum events.



Dr. Grandin poses with Agriculture and Extension Education master's student Tiffany Schroer at the meet and greet barbeque that was held on August 24 at the Livestock Judging Pavilion. Photo courtesy of Tiffany Schroer.

Grandin gave talks over autism, animal science topics and themes from her many published books. She also did book signings with both NMSU students and the public. Her visit came through as part of the 'common read' program that is being tested at NMSU. The goal with the common read program is to have all freshman students read the same book, and this semester, the book chosen was Grandin's "Thinking In Pictures."

"We hope that this book and visit will really help the common read program get off to a good start," said Dr. Glenn Duff, head of the NMSU department of animal and range science.

Grandin lectures across the country on autism, as she is autistic herself. In the book, "Thinking In Pictures," Grandin writes from the dual perspectives of a scientist and an autistic person and how she was able to break boundaries to function in the outside world.

Currently, Grandin teaches courses on livestock behavior and facility design at Colorado State University and consults with the livestock industry on facility design, livestock handling and animal welfare.



In a talk entitled, "Helping Different Kinds of Minds to Solve Problems and Have Good Careers," Dr. Grandin spoke to a crowd of students, faculty and community members and answered questions in the Atkinson Recital Hall on August 25.

## IN MEMORIAM....



The Department of Animal and Range Sciences lost a colleague and friend this past month. Dr. Laurie Abbott, Emeritus Associate Professor in Rangeland Ecology and Restoration, passed away after her long battle with Leukemia.

Dr. Abbott joined NMSU in 1998, where she taught multiple range science classes including, a range science careers class, Rangeland Restoration, Rangeland Analysis, Advanced Rangeland Ecology and Quantitative Plant Ecology. She

earned her Bachelor of Science in Botany from the University of Michigan and her Masters of Science in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology and Ph.D. in Range Management from University of Arizona.

A memorial for Dr. Abbott is being planned for the end of October, and in lieu of flowers, her family asks that donations be made to the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, where Dr. Abbott received much of her care.

## Zinpro Corporation honors NMSU graduate student with Young Scholars Award



Eden Prairie, Minn., Aug. 16, 2016 – Three student scientists – Rodrigo da Silva Marques, Amy Abrams, and

### Stacia Prosser

– were recently honored as Young Scholars during the 2016 Western Section Young Scholar Recognition (YSR) program, sponsored by Zinpro Corporation. The awards were presented in conjunction with the Western Section of the American Society of Animal Science (WSASAS) meeting held in Salt Lake City, Utah. As award recipients, each received a plaque, a monetary award and an invitation to present their research findings at the meeting.

“We congratulate these students on the impressive research they have accomplished, and we look forward to seeing more findings from them in the future,” said Connie Larson, Ph.D., Research and Nutritional Services ru-

minant manager – North America, Zinpro Corporation. “High-quality animal science research is very much in demand, and the quality of the research, as demonstrated by these young scientists, will be invaluable to the industry in years to come.”

Sponsored by Zinpro Corporation, the WSASAS Young Scholar Recognition Program was established in 2013 to acknowledge the research accomplishments by doctoral and master’s degree students. The recognition program is also designed to increase participation in the WSASAS meetings by showcasing exceptional and contemporary research from talented, young scientists.

**Stacia Prosser** earned her master’s degree in animal science, with a minor in molecular cell biology at New Mexico State University (NMSU), Las Cruces, New Mexico, where she also is currently pursuing her doctoral degree. Prosser earned her bachelor’s degree at the University of Connecticut,

Storrs, Connecticut. Her current research focuses on investigating the physiological role of a specific signaling protein, and its receptor, on placental development during early gestation. Knowledge gained from this research regarding communication between fetal and maternal tissues may contribute to developing methods to prevent early embryonic loss.

While earning her master’s degree, Prosser was proactive in representing the interests and concerns of her peers as secretary and president of the Animal and Range Sciences Graduate Student Association. Additionally, she served as farm tour coordinator for the Department of Animal and Range Sciences at NMSU.

As the industry leader in trace mineral nutrition for livestock and poultry, Zinpro is committed to delivering the technical expertise, products and educational tools needed to help customers improve the performance and profitability of their operations.

# Welcome back Graduate Students!

MOHAMMED HASAN ALAMERI

BAHAA ALOQAILY

SHIANN BURNS

CYNTHIA DeLANOY

JESUS J. FIGUEROA

MARGARET GANNON

ASHLEY HANSEN

MEGAN McNALLY

BRANDON MEYERHOFF

MICHAEL MEYERS

ALYSSA GATES

ULISES ALEJANDRO SANCHEZ

JEREMY SCHALLNER

DANIEL CHAVEZ

## TRAVELS



**Dr. Jerry Holechek** poses with a student from the school he helped with in Zimbabwe. Photo courtesy of Jerry Holechek

**Dr. Jerry Holechek** traveled internationally this summer, going to South Africa, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Namibia and Zambia in June, and then to the Balkan countries of Bulgaria, Macedonia, Bosnia, Serbia, Croatia, Romania and Hungary in July.

In southern Africa, Dr. Holechek toured wildlife reserves and rangelands and also participated in local development projects as a member of

the Grand Circle Foundation and Sir Edmund Hilary Club.

The primary project was in Zimbabwe near Victoria Falls, and the work involved helping schools with buildings and supplies, providing local water development funds for wells and providing assistance for local farming, pastoral and small craft businesses. The projects are oriented towards helping women and children.

While in the Balkans, Dr. Holechek spent time learning about the countries' agriculture in terms of both farming and livestock production.

Dr. Holechek will be giving a seminar on his experience in Africa on Thursday, September 1, in Knox Hall, Room 238, from noon to 12:50 p.m.

**Dr. Amy Ganguli** co-facilitated the Native American Rangeland Training and Planning Meeting in Pablo, Mon-



**Elephants** could be seen on the rangeland of Zimbabwe. Photo courtesy of Jerry Holechek.

tana, on August 23 and 24. She also presented a project update at the August 28 meeting of the High Plains Grasslands Alliance in Ocate, New Mexico.

## PUBLICATIONS

**Ganguli, A.C., D.M. Mayer, and L.F. Salo.** 2016. Influence of resource availability on *Juniperus virginiana* expansion in a forest-prairie ecotone. *Ecosphere* 7:1-15.

## NMSU students and faculty bring home awards and honors from Western Section of the American Society of Animal Science

*Note: This story ran in the previous Bridle Bit, but not all NMSU brought home the trophy for the Institution Award. awards and achievements were noted.*

NMSU animal scientists traveled to Salt Lake City, Utah, to compete in the Western Section of the American Society of Animal Science on July 19-23.

**Eben Oosthuysen** received first place and **Caitlin Hebbert** received third place in the Graduate Student Paper Competition for their proceedings papers and presentations. As a result of their achievements and having received the highest combined scores in the WSASAS Graduate Student Competition,

In addition, **Dr. Ryan Ashley** received the Distinguished Teaching Award, **Stacia Prosser** earned a young scholar recognition and **Shelby Rosasco** won the Applied Animal Science Paper Award.

**Dr. Shanna Ivey** is serving as the current president of WSASAS and, **Dr. Glenn Duff** was elected as the Western Section representative to the National American Society of Animal Science Board.