Ross’ Ramblings

The only constant is change. Two members of our Department have moved to greener pastures. Stacey Madson, who was the “face” of the Department left to work for the Doña Ana County Human Resources Department. In January, 2012, Dr. Milton Thomas will begin a new position at Colorado State University. We will miss both. However, our Department welcomes Dr. Laura White into our faculty. Dr. White will teach and conduct research in equine sciences. In addition, we welcome Dr. Mike Hubbert to the Clayton Livestock Research Center while Dr. Patrick Alexander assumes a temporary college faculty position to teach RgSc 307 (Range Grasses) and RgSc 316 (Range Plants). Dr. Carlos Ochoa also joins our faculty as a College Assistant Professor and his duties will be to conduct research in watershed management. Bobbie Jo Fossberg will serve as Program Coordinator working with Sam Fernald. We look forward to the contributions these new faculty and staff personnel will bring to our programs.

At the writing of this column, the Introductory Animal Science course enrollment exceeds 150 students. This is the largest freshman class in the past 30 years. Many of our other classes have filled to capacity. However, due to budget reductions, we are not able to fund as many graduate students.

The construction of the Southwest Center for Rangeland Sustainability is complete and open for business. Thanks to Shad Cox for spearheading this program. We hope to schedule various activities at the Center for agencies and other NMSU groups. In addition, construction of the Stallion Barn will be completed in the fall of 2011. This facility will allow the horse program to expand its academic programs. We will also have the ability to breed outside mares to our outstanding stallions (To Teras and Coolhand Smart). Funding for this facility was provided by Stan Fulton, owner of Sunland Park Racetrack/Casino.

Last fall and spring, we had several courses offered that required substitute teachers. I want to thank Dr. Joe Armstrong, Dr. Laurie Abbott, Dr. John Campbell, Dr. Johnette Browne-Silva, Joby Priest, Kasey DeAtley and Kerrianne Gardner for helping us out with these courses. It goes to show that our faculty and alumni “ride for the brand.” As you read this newsletter, you will recognize the commitment to excellence within our department from students to faculty. As research funding through the Agricultural Experiment Station declines, we will become more reliant on extramural funding. Our faculty again has stepped up and has increased grant funding significantly over the last year. Continuing with good news; the faculty position in plant taxonomy was recently approved. We will begin the search soon. I want to thank the University and College administration for understanding our needs and supporting our programs.

In spite of the budget woes, the Department continues to grow and meet the needs of our students and clients. I am proud of our students, faculty and staff. However, our success is re-enforced by our alumni and friends. So, thank you for your continued support of our students and programs.

GO AGGIES!!

New Faculty

Dr. Mike Hubbert of Amarillo, Texas has been selected as Superintendent
of the Clayton Livestock Research Center (CLRC). Mike received his B.S. degree in agriculture from the University of Arizona in 1976 and his Master’s degree in ruminant nutrition at NMSU in 1981. He completed his doctorate in ruminant nutrition at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks in 1987 and worked with Glen Lofgreen at CLRC as a post-doctorate in feedlot nutrition in 1987. He has extensive experience in the feedlot industry and recently served as a technical services manager with Alpharma Animal Health.

**Dr. Laura White** joined the faculty July 1 as assistant professor of equine science. Dr. White served as Equine Instructor at Texas A&M University from 2009 to 2011 and at Clemson University from 2006-2009. She received her B.S. degree in animal science from Texas A&M in 2004 while her Master’s degree in equine nutrition was earned at University of Georgia in 2006. In 2009, Dr. White received her PhD in Animal and Veterinary Sciences at Clemson University. She has served as Horseman’s Association advisor at both Texas A&M and Clemson and was coach of the Ranch Horse Team at Clemson. Her doctorate research involved “the appraisal of critical thinking skills in animal science undergraduates who participated on a competitive collegiate judging team.”

Other additions to our faculty this fall include **Dr. Carlos Ochoa** who will conduct research in watershed management and **Dr. Patrick Alexander**, on temporary assignment to teach Range Grasses and Range Plants.

**Departures**

**Dr. Milton Thomas**, professor of animal science, has accepted the John E. Rouse Endowed Chair of Beef Cattle Genetics in the Department of Animal Science at Colorado State University. He will assume his new duties in January 2012. Milt joined the department in 1997 and currently holds the Gerald Thomas Chair in Food Production and Natural Resources. He completed a McMaster’s Fellowship with CSIRO in Australia in June and July of 2011 and was recipient of the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences “Distinguished Research Award” in 2004.

**Stacey Madson**, General Administrative Assistant with the department since 2004 has resigned effective June 3rd to accept a position with the County of Doña Ana as a grants coordinator. She will work in the Health and Human Resources Department. Stacey received her BS in animal science in 2003 and her MBA in 2010.

**Faculty Recognitions**

**Dr. Kelly Allred**, retired professor of range science, was recognized at the Society for Range Management meetings in February with the “Outstanding Achievement Award” while **Dr. Laurie Abbott** was recipient of the “President’s Award” at the New Mexico Section of Society for Range Management at their annual meeting in Albuquerque in January.
At the College of Agricultural, Consumer, and Environmental Sciences Awards Day in April, current and former faculty members were honored. **Shad Cox**, superintendent of the Corona Range and Livestock Research Center, was named the first recipient of the “Professional Staff – Off Campus” Award in recognition of his “excellence in job skills and performance of those skills, on the job initiative contributing to the effectiveness of a unit, contributions to an effective work atmosphere for fellow employees and constituents as well as good working relationships between units in the college, university and community.”

**Dr. Dennis Hallford**, Regents Professor Animal Science, received the ACES “Distinguished Service Award” in recognition of his 35 years of service given “over and above normal routine duties” to fellow workers, colleagues, students, ACES agency clientele and constituents, NMSU, the community and the general public. He joins Rex Pieper in the distinction of having received all three major College awards (Teaching, Research, and Service).

Others associated with the Department that received recognition were **Jerry Schickedanz** (“Leyendecker Agriculturalist of Distinciton” Award) and **John Wenzel** (“Extension Specialist Association Award for New Specialist”).

**Sam Fernald**, professor of range science (watershed management) has been named the Interim Director of the Water Resources Research Institute, following the retirement of **Karl Wood** in December 2010. Dr. Fernald has been involved in several research projects which include the acequia water systems linking culture and nature; integrated analysis of community resilience to climate and land use changes, and was recently awarded a $1.4 million grant from National Science Foundation.

**New Facilities**

Construction on the Southwest Center for Rangeland Sustainability on the Corona Range and Livestock Center began in September 2010 and was completed this summer. The center consists of indoor and outdoor multiuse meeting/exhibit areas, library/meeting room for outreach activities and student use, office for the Corona research center, visiting faculty, staff and students, and a kitchen/meal preparation facility. **Shad Cox**, ranch superintendent of the CRLC, stated “the new facility will offer a structured and convenient environment dedicated to education and outreach.”
Student Teams

The NMSU Range Club placed 1st in the Student Chapter Display contest at the Society for Range Management meeting in Billings, Montana, while Jimmie Hughes placed 2nd in the Undergraduate Public Speaking Contest with his speech “Remote sensing applications in rangeland management.” Students participating in the Rangeland Cup Competition with their poster “Water Development in the U.S. and Australia” were Monty Lane, Vanessa Aguilera, Hector Elias, and Jimmie Hughes.

The Livestock Judging Team, coached by Gwen Powers, participated at the National Western Stock Show in Denver, the Southwestern Exposition and Livestock Show in Fort Worth, Texas, the San Antonio Livestock Show and the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. Team members were J. T. Van Huss, Lane Gallaher, Chance Jacobs, Justin Maestas, and Cheyenne Pena.

The Horse Judging Team, coached by Kali Benson, competed at the American Paint Horse Association Sweepstake Judging Contest in Alvarado, Texas on April 9. Team members include Lyndi Owensby, Taylor Calloway, Angela Cordova, and Kim Hopper. Twenty-two teams participated in the event.

Members of the Wool Judging Team competed at the National Western Livestock Show in Denver and the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. At the Houston Show, the team finished 8th overall, 6th in grading, and 8th in placings and reasons. Individual placings included Consuelo Gurule (6th in grading) and Ryan Best (10th in grading).

The Ranch Horse Team competed at Stephen F. Austin University on March 5, finishing second overall. Katie Dunn was High Point Individual in Non Pro, Sara Marta was 5th high individual in Limited Non Pro, and Katy Rosencrans was 3rd overall in Novice. At the Laramie County Community College show in Cheyenne, the team won 1st place. Katy Rosencrans was Overall Novice High Point Rider, Katie Dunn placed 3rd All Around in Non Pro, Charles Roybal was 10th High Individual in Novice, Jacinda Hinkson finished 8th High Individual in Limited Non Pro while Sara Marta was 10th High Individual in Limited Non Pro. Other team members were Kaycee McDaniel and Sean Reagan. Team coach is Joby Priest. At the National Ranch Horse competition in Abilene, Texas, the team finished 3rd overall behind Texas Tech and Texas A&M University. Katie Dunn was 3rd overall in the Non-Pro division while Katy Rosencrans was 5th in the Novice class.
The **NMSU Academic Quadrathlon** was held February 25-26 with three teams participating. The **DMV’s** team, comprised of **Staci Stanbrough, Jared Sharp, Kati Hansen** and **Joshua Kloeppe** finished first. Second place was awarded to **Cowlicks** (Michael Marricle, Katie Behm, Katie Dunn, and Monty Lane), while third place went to **Industrialists** (Leah Schmitz, DeLane Luce, Justin Montoya, and Sam Teske). **Sergio Soto** serves as advisor. Four students (Leah Schmitz, Katelin Marchetti, Michael Marricle, and Jennifer Lindsay) represented NMSU at the Western Section, American Society of Animal Science Academic Quadrathlon competition at the WSASAS annual meetings in Miles City, Montana in June finishing in 2nd Place.

At the Fall 2010 Sam Steel reception for Animal and Range Sciences graduate students, **Robert Crane**, Lindsey Green, Jovani Armendariz, and Dakota Woodard received the department’s “Graduate of Distinction” medallions. Jovani also graduated With Honors and was named “Outstanding Student in Animal and Range Sciences.” Lindsey also received the “Dean’s Award of Excellence” and graduated With Honors.

Students receiving recognition as American Society of Animal Science Scholars for 2011 were **Kathleen Behm**, **Kathryn Hanson, Cora Hollomon, Kelsey Kalbacher, Melissa Rigdon, Aurora Torres** (Seniors); **Kaylin Beeman, Erin Crumbley, Amy Lang, Sara Rush, Tiffany Taylor** (Juniors); **Kristen Del Villar, Ashley Gurnea, Audrea Hamlin, Chelsea Melton, Hannah Robertson and Monica Salazar** (Sophomores).

Named as “Outstanding Senior in Animal and Range Science” for Spring 2011 was **Staci Stanbrough** of Capitan, New Mexico. She also graduated with High Honors and represented NMSU at the Collegiate Finals Rodeo in goat tying. Receiving “Dean’s Awards of Excellence” were **Katie Dunn** and **Sarah Lopez** (undergraduates) and **Gwen Powers** (graduate student). Students receiving “Graduate of Distinction” medallions were **Katherine Cox, Katie Dunn, Kathilyn Hanson, Sarah Lopez, Michael Marricle, Staci Stanbrough, and Keylee Topmiller**.

**2011 American Society of Animal Science Scholars**
Bottom Row: Kaylin Beeman, Kelsey Kalbacher, Aurora Torres, Sara Rush
Top Row: Kathilyn Hanson, Chelsea Melton, Melissa Rigdon, Erin Crumbley

“Graduate of Distinction Medallion” honorees Keylee Topmiller, Michael Marricle, Kathilyn Hanson, Katharine Cox, Katie Dunn, Sarah Lopez, Staci Stanbrough, Dr. Tim Ross
The 27th annual A. L. Neumann Scientific Paper Competition for Animal Science Graduate Students was held in June, 2011 with six students participating. First place winner was Katie Taylor, a masters students working with Clint Löest for her paper “Effects of amino acid supplementati on on nitrogen metabolism and immune response of bottle-fed calves exposed to an endotoxin.” Second place went to Nigel Miller, master’s student with Eric Scholljegerdes. His paper was titled “Effects of flaxseed level and processing on site and extent of digestion in beef cows fed native hay.”

At the Western Section, American Society of Animal Science meetings held in June in Miles City, Montana, three students participated in the Graduate Student Paper Competition (Kelsey Quinn, Nigel Miller and Patricia Black, Placing 2nd in the competition was Nigel with Kelsey finishing 3rd. Nigel’s paper was the same one he presented at the Neumann Competition while Kelsey’s paper was titled “CXCL12 and CXCR4 expression in peripheral blood from pregnant and non-pregnant sheep: Implications in pregnancy diagnosis.” NMSU won the Institutional Graduate Student Paper Competition for the second year in a row for having the most top finishers in the competition. Kelsey, Nigel and Patricia are shown with Dr. Connie Swenson of Zinpro, sponsor of the award.