ROSS’ RAMBLINGS

We have had another busy and eventful year in Animal and Range Sciences. Our undergraduate numbers are holding steady following several years of increasing student credit hours. We have filled the range science faculty position vacated by Dr. Allred’s retirement and are excited to welcome Dr. Amy Ganguli to our Department. Also, Ms. Celia Salinas has joined our Department as an administrative assistant. By the time this newsletter is sent, we will have completed the search to fill Calvin Bailey’s CDRRC manager position. The position vacated by Dr. Milt Thomas’ resignation has initial approval and hopefully we can begin a search soon. I want to thank our College and University administration for supporting our programs and allowing us to fill these very important faculty and staff lines.

In January, we hosted the first official program at our new Southwest Center for Rangeland Sustainability (SWCRS) located at the Corona Range and Livestock Research Center. The official grand opening is September 8. Shad Cox and Eric Scholljegerdes have done a wonderful job organizing the Rancher Round Table series held in the SWCRS. Also, in February, we moved into the new Stallion Barn at the NMSU Horse Farm. The new facility was made possible by the generosity of Mr. Stan Fulton. Joby Priest did a super job working with architects and builders to ensure a very functional building. In early March, a fire at the Horse Farm destroyed our hay and hay barn. Luckily, no horses or people were injured and the local fire departments were on-site to confine the fire to only the hay barn. I want to thank Deerman Farms, Horse and Hound Feed and Supply, Landmark Mercantile, and Purina Mills for coming to our aid, providing hay to keep our horses fed while we made arrangements for hay purchases. It is very comforting to know we have good friends in the community.

Our faculty, staff and students continue to be recognized for outstanding work and dedication to our programs. Marilyn Hallford has very aptly described these recognitions in the following pages.

Like everyone else, budget woes continue. With high hay, corn, and fuel prices, our ability to maintain the farms and ranches becomes more difficult. But for those in agriculture, we have been down this road before. The drought is also making us rethink management strategies on the ranches. However, we will get through this as well.

Regardless, I am proud of our faculty, staff, students, alumni, and friends. Together we all make NMSU, the College and the Department a great place to work and learn. I came to NMSU over 30 years ago and am still proud to be an AGGIE.
NEW FACULTY
Dr. Amy Ganguli, currently of North Dakota State University, has accepted the faculty position in Range Sciences previously held by Kelly Allred. Dr. Ganguli received her B.S. degree from the University of Rhode Island in Wildlife Biology and Management, her M.S. in Range Science at Texas Tech University and her Ph.D. in Rangeland Ecology at Oklahoma State University. She has previously worked as a ecosystem/rangeland ecologist with Ecosystem Management Research Institute in Seeley Lake, Montana, the USDA Forest Service in Boise Idaho before joining the range science faculty at North Dakota State University. Her research interest as a plant community ecologist is towards developing effective management strategies for invasive plants and preventing new invasions. At NDSU, she has created a fire research program that has focused on fire behavior and fire effects in rangelands. Dr. Ganguli began her duties August 16.

RETIREMENTS
Chris Allison, Extension Animal Sciences and Natural Resources department head, retired June 30 after 34 years at NMSU. Chris received his B.S. and M.S. degrees in range science at NMSU and his Ph.D. in range science from Texas A&M. His extension duties were providing educational programs in grazing management and range livestock production. He also worked on public land policy and grazing management on federal lands as a member of the Range Improvement Task Force. Among his awards are the College’s “Fabian Garcia Founders Award of Excellence,” College’s “Distinguished Extension Award,” and New Mexico Society for Range Management’s “Excellence in Range Management Award.”

Calvin Bailey, foreman of the Chihuahuan Desert Rangeland Research Center (better known as the College Ranch) retired March 31 after 40 years in that position. Calvin became the ranch manager in December, 1971 just after he graduated from NMSU with a degree in animal science. Calvin has been instrumental in overseeing livestock and range research conducted by NMSU faculty and graduate students on the 60,000 acre property and has guided many students who have worked at the ranch over the years. During his tenure, he has worked under 10 NMSU presidents, five College of Agricultural, Consumer, and Environmental Sciences deans, and five Animal and Range Sciences department heads. Calvin received the ACES “Charles Tharp Farms Distinguished Service Award at the college Awards Day on April 20. He and his wife, Debra, have two children, Scott and Becky, and two granddaughters. They will reside in Las Cruces after his retirement.
FACULTY RECOGNITIONS

Jerry Holechek, professor of range science at NMSU for 32 years, was awarded the “Frederic G. Renner Award,” the most prestigious award bestowed by the Society for Range Management. He was cited for his numerous contributions to the range management profession through his research, teaching, international work, and presentations in the areas of range livestock nutrition, range wildlife management, rangeland monitoring, and rangeland restoration and improvement. His textbook, “Range Management Principles and Practices is now in its 6th edition and has become the standard undergraduate textbook in range management.

Dennis Hallford, Tim Ross (Animal and Range Sciences) and Keith Duncan (Extension Animal Science and Natural Resources) have been given designations as “Distinguished Achievement Professor,” a new professorship program for full professors who have been in rank for at least 7 years and have demonstrated significant achievements at that level.

Congratulations to Nick Ashcroft, Extension Range Specialist, who received the Bud Eppers Memorial “Bud’s Contract” Award from the NM Federal Lands Council in recognition of giving of his time and efforts to the New Mexico Federal Lands Council.

Named “Young Scientist” for the Western Section, American Society of Animal Science for 2012 was Shanna Lodge Ivey. Shanna, an active grant writer, is co-investigator on a funded grant in calf health as well as being involved in a multi-agency research group to evaluate algae as sources of biofuels. Her portion of the research is to investigate the use of algal by-product from aviation fuel. She has published 69 journal articles, proceeding papers and abstracts and serves on the editorial board of the Journal of Animal Science. Her teaching includes Animal Nutrition, Animal Metabolism, and Rumen Microbiology. Shanna is an active member of several professional organizations, University and departmental committees, as well as mentor/advisor to animal science undergraduate and graduate students. She is only the second female to receive this prestigious award.

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS

Mike Casabonne of Hope, New Mexico, was named as the Department of Animal and Range Sciences
“Outstanding Departmental Alumni” for 2011. Mike was recognized at the ACES Homecoming Breakfast on October 28 as well as at a departmental reception that same morning. Mike grew up in Artesia, graduating from Artesia High in 1968. He received his degree in animal science from NMSU in 1973. He has been a leader in the sheep, cattle and public lands areas, serving as vice-president and president of the New Mexico Public Lands Council. He has been an active member of the New Mexico Wool Growers’ Association as well as the National Wool Growers’ Association and American Sheep Producers’ Council. In 1978, he leased the Lloyd Treat Ranch north of Hope and later purchased the ranch and continues to own and operate the ranch today. Mike and his wife, Dwana, have two children and one granddaughter.

**THERAPEUTIC RIDING**

The NMSU Therapeutic Riding Program which helps persons with disabilities achieve life skills in the areas of therapy, education, sport, recreation and leisure by utilizing a bond between humans and horses has received a planned gift of nearly $500,000 that will be used to build a covered arena. Wendy Wilkins, executive vice-president and provost at NMSU and her husband, Jay Rodman, senior communications specialist at University Communications and Marketing Services have already made an initial $25,000 donation to help support the program. Sarah Veeder serves as an equine science instructor and coordinator of the NMSU Therapeutic Riding Program. For more information, contact Sarah at 646-2929 or visit http://trp.nmsu.edu.

**STUDENT NEWS**

Receiving a First Place in Master’s category for her poster “Measuring the potential benefits of using targeted cattle grazing to alter fire behavior” at the Society for Range Management meetings in Seattle, Washington was Leticia Varelas. Leticia is working on her M.S. degree in Range Science with Derek Bailey.

Three teams competed in the departmental Academic Quadrathlon with “Team America” earning the right to represent NMSU at the Western Section, American Society of Animal Science meeting in Phoenix in July. Team members were Nizhoni LaFrance, Dusty Anderson, Cooper McDaniel and Monty Lane. Serving as alternate is Katy Rosencrans. Sergio Soto-Navarro served as coach of the team assisted by Colleen Richardson.

Members of the Horse Judging Team, coached by Dr. Laura White include Monica Salazar, Matthew Crouse, Veronica Alba, Kimberly Hopper, Lyndi Owensby, Hannah Swarthout, and Taylor Callaway. The team participated at National Reining Horse
Association Futurity Collegiate Judging Contest in Oklahoma City in the fall and Collegiate Horse Judging Contest in Fort Worth, Texas during the spring semester.

Monica Salazar, Matthew Crouse, Veronica Alba, Kimberly Hopper, Lyndi Owensby.

The Wool Judging Team competed at the National Western Livestock Show in Denver, finishing 5th in grading with Troy Mitchell 5th high individual in grading. At the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, the team was 10th overall. Individually, Bonnie McCauley was 7th in placings and reasonings and 15th overall. Other team members were Cole Mounyo and Joslyn Beard while graduate assistant, Patricia Black served as coach.


The NMSU Ranch Horse Team, coached by Joby Priest, was High Point Team at competition held March 4 at Colorado State University in Fort Collins, Colorado. Individual winners included Jessica Smith, 3rd in Non-Pro Division; Charles Roybal, 5th in Non-Pro Division; Katy Rosencrans – High Point All-Around in Limited Non-Pro Division; Kendra Werner – Reserve All-Around in Limited No-Pro Division, Chelsea Reimholz – 1st in Novice Division, and Tiffany Taylor – 2nd in Novice Division.

At the Region 5 Championship Ranch Horse competition held March 15-18 in Cheyenne, Wyoming, the team emerged as the Region 5 Collegiate Championship Team. In the Non-Pro Division, Jessica Smith was 3rd and Charles Roybal was 5th. Kendra Werner was Reserve High Point Individual and Katy Rosencrans was 3rd in the Limited Non-Pro Division. In the Novice Division, Chelsea Reimholz was High Point Individual and Tiffany Taylor was Reserve High Point Individual.

The Ranch Horse Team finished third at the ASHA National Collegiate Championship Show in Cheyenne, Wyoming on March 15-18. Individual winners were Jessica Smith (8th) and Charles Roybal (15th) in Non-Pro Division; Katy Rosencrans (4th) and Kendra Werner (12th) in Limited Non-Pro Division; Tiffany Taylor (5th) and Chelsea Reimholz (11th) in Novice Division.

Tiffany Taylor, Jessica Smith, Joby Priest, Katy Rosencrans, Charles Roybal, Kendra Werner, Chelsea Reimholz
Students receiving American Society of Animal Science Scholastic Achievement Awards are:

Seniors: Roxanne Benally, Dusty M. Anderson, Lauren M. Espinoza, Tiffiny C. Taylor, Erin Crumbley, Kyra Grant
Juniors: Alannah C. Anderson, Andrea M. Hamlin, Chelsea D. Melton, Tyrel L. Lilly, Hannah M. Robertson, Monica Salazar
Sophomores: Jacqueline B. Alford, Lauren L. Cockrell, Deanne L. Coyle, Matthew S. Crouse, Jesus E. Herrera, Adriane D. Hibbert, Jenica L. Moore, Nicole S. Sanchez

The 27th annual A. L. Neumann Scientific Paper Competition was held July 12, 2012. Seven students participated in this year’s event with first place going to Kelsey Quinn and second place to Melanie Beckman. Other students participating were Piedad Mayagoitia, Reid McDaniel, Patricia Black, Colleen Richardson, and Chris Shelley.

Graduate students from the Department of Animal and Range Sciences were big winners at the recent Western Section, American Society of Animal Science (WSASAS) meeting held in Phoenix, Arizona. Earning first place in the Graduate Student Paper Competition was Melanie Beckman, M.S. student working with Dr. Shanna Ivey, for her paper “Digestibility of algal biofuel co-product in a forage diet,” while Kelsey Quinn placed second for her presentation, “Fetal and maternal induction of angiogenic factors during early pregnancy.” Her master’s advisor is Dr. Ryan Ashley and she was also elected the WSASAS graduate student representative to the WSASAS Executive Board. Travis Mulliniks received first place honors in the Applied Animal Science Manuscript competition for his paper “Metabolizable protein supply alters pregnancy and subsequent retention rate during heifer development while grazing dormant winter forage.” His Ph.D. advisor is Dr. Eric Scholljegerdes. NMSU also received the Institution Graduate Student Paper Competition award, sponsored by Zinpro for the third year in a row.
The NMSU Animal and Range Sciences Graduate Student Association placed second in the first ever American Society of Animal Science Video Competition for their video “How NMSU Animal and Range Sciences Department is Feeding the World.” To watch the video go on-line to: http://www.youtube.com/user/videosforA SAS/videos

December 2011 graduate Michael Mora of Socorro, New Mexico received the departmental “Graduate of Distinction” medallion as well as the “Dean’s Award of Excellence.”

Several spring graduates were recognized for academic and student activities with the department’s Graduate of Distinction medallion. These include Roxanne Benally (Shiprock, NM), Erin Crumbley (Fort Bayard, NM), Austin Graham (Clovis, NM), Monty Lane (La Mesa, NM), Leah Schmitz (Llaves, NM), Aurora Torres (Placitas, NM), and Angela Yemma (Littleton, CO). Roxanne also received the Alumni Association “Outstanding Graduate Award for the College of Agricultural, Consumer, and Environmental Sciences, while Erin and Leah received the “Dean’s Award of Excellence.” Austin received a “Dean’s Award of Excellence for Leadership” and Monty was named “Outstanding Student in Animal and Range Sciences.”

Receiving National Collegiate Equestrian Association All-American honors was animal science major Amy Lang, who was also named to the NCEA Academic All-American second team. Hannah Swarthout, animal science major, was also named NCEA Honorable Mention Academic All-American.
December 2011 Graduates

Back Row: Jesse Lozano, Laura Tracey, Grady Gray, Justin Montoya, Michael Mora
Front Row: Stacey Fields, Carolina Rivera, Jennifer Rosales, Breanne Bertrand, Sean Reagan, Ruben Chavez

Spring 2012 Graduates