

## Ross' Ramblings

The fall semester is always a new beginning. We have a new freshman class bringing many new faces to our campus and especially to our department. We also have new faces within our departmental staff and have new opportunities and challenges ahead. I have a new job. As we begin a new academic year, we will miss key members of our department: Dr. Kim Kane, Ben Gardner, Lou Berkompas and Mike Rubio. Their contributions to our Department were great and we will miss each of them. I also want to express my thanks to Dr. Mark Wise for his leadership of the department for the past several years.

Several initiatives that have been in the pipeline are about to be realized. Our dairy management teaching consortium is on the fast track. NMSU will host the courses in Clovis and Dr. Robert Hagevoort has already scheduled a prestigious group of faculty to teach the courses. We should get the program up and running this summer. The Southwest Center for Rangeland Sustainability is number two on the University's capital outlay request this year. Thanks go to Dr. Mark Petersen and the CRLRC Advisory Committee for their hard work on this project. As these new projects come online, we continually look for ways to renovate our facilities on our Science Centers and the Horse Farm.

I may be biased by the 25 years I have spent as a faculty member in this department. However, our faculty, staff, and alumni are the best. Each is committed to the success of our students and programs. I will continue to foster this attitude of success. Finally, I personally want to thank the department for allowing me the opportunity to serve as the Interim Department Head.

## GO AGGIES!

### Interim Department Head



Following an internal search, the faculty, staff and college administrators have selected **Dr. Tim Ross** as Interim Department Head, effective August 24, 2007. Dr. Ross is a popular professor and advisor and teaches Introductory Animal Science, Sheep and Wool Production, Environmental

Physiology and Dairy Production. He received his B.S. and M.S. degrees from the University of Arkansas and his Ph.D. in reproductive physiology at North Carolina State University. He joined the faculty in 1982 and has received numerous teaching awards. He just completed a term as President of the Western Section, American Society of Animal Science.

### Personnel



Effective June 30, 2007, **Dr. Mark Wise** stepped down as department head after serving in that capacity for six years. He will begin working with the new Southwest Center for Animal Health, Food Safety, and Bio-security; however, his primary appointment will remain with the department.

Among the accomplishments by faculty, staff

and students during his tenure was the growth in student numbers, endowed scholarships, and grants and contracts, which was greater than any in other department in the College.



**Ben Gardner**, research associate in the Meats Laboratory since 1977, retired December 31, 2006. Ben supervised student employees on humane slaughter and meat processing procedures and assisted with the State FFA and 4-H meats contests. He also coordinated research

programs involving the Meats Lab, NM Livestock Board Meat Inspection Division and NMSU researchers. Ben served as a medic in the U.S. Army from 1967-1970 and before joining the department worked in the oil fields in eastern New Mexico. Nicolas Thane Petersen was hired in July to be the new Meat Lab Manager. He is an NMSU graduate in agricultural economics and business and worked in the Meat Lab as a student from 2004-2006.

**Mike Rubio**, senior research assistant at the Corona Range Livestock Research Center, accepted a position as ranch manager at a ranch near Animas, New Mexico. Richard Dunlap, a 2006 animal and range sciences graduate from Animas, filled the position vacancy at CRLRC in June 2007.

**Dr. Kim Kane**, Research Specialist working with Dean Hawkins, has been accepted to the Colorado State University School of Veterinary Medicine and she began her studies in August. Kim received her Ph.D. in reproductive physiology from NMSU in 1999. After teaching at Angelo State University for one year, she



returned to NMSU in 2000. She has aided Dr. Hawkins in his research and graduate student

training program and is the author or co-author of numerous journal articles.



**Lou Berkompas**, Horse Farm Manager since 1977, retired effective August 31, 2007. Lou received his B.S. degree in animal science in 1977 and immediately began working as assistant livestock supervisor at the Horse Farm. He has been instrumental in maintaining the facilities and nurturing the horse herd, which has resulted in a top line of horses. Lou received the "Stephen W. and Robert E. Roberts Memorial Staff Award" in 1998 and the "President's Star Performance Award" for classified and professional staff in 2003.

## Faculty Recognitions



At the Society for Range Management meetings held in February in Reno, Nevada, **Dr. Kirk McDaniel** and Chris Allison were honored with special awards. Dr. McDaniel was awarded the "W.R. Chapline Research Award," the organization's highest research award, for his "exceptional

accomplishments in research contributing to the improvement of rangeland resources." He has a joint appointment in research and extension as the Range Brush and Weed Control Specialist.



**Dr. Chris Allison** was presented the "Outstanding Achievement Award for Stewardship" for the advancement of range management. He developed range-monitoring techniques used by ranchers and federal land agencies and a rangeland evaluation protocol to determine range suitability for livestock grazing.



**Dr. Clint Löest**, associate professor of ruminant nutrition, was recognized at the annual College of Agriculture and Home Economics Awards Day with the "Distinguished Teaching Award." Dr. Löest, a native of South Africa, joined the faculty in 2001 and teaches

courses in Feeds and Feeding, Advanced Animal Nutrition and Advanced Nutritional Management (Feedlot).

Other faculty recognitions include **Dr. Jack Thomas**, College of Agriculture and Home Economics "Outstanding Club Advisor" for his work with FarmHouse Fraternity, and **Dr. Dean Hawkins**, recipient of the Clarendon College Ex-Students Association's "Distinguished Alumnus Award." Dr. Thomas has also been selected as "Ombuds" representative for the University, a newly created position for handling communication and problem resolutions for faculty and staff.



**Thomas**



**Hawkins**

## Student Teams and Awards

The **Livestock Judging team** competed at the Express Ranches judging contest in Oklahoma City, the Arizona National Livestock show in Phoenix, the National Western Stock Show in Denver, and the Houston Livestock Show. The team was 7th in sheep at the Denver contest and 14th overall at the Houston competition. Davena Norris, Patrick

Pachta, Lindsay Jaramillo, Kali Benson, and Julian Marta were members of the team, coached by graduate assistants Cole Gardner and Johnathon Walsh.

The **Wool Judging team** placed 5th overall in the wool judging contest and 1st overall in the Handspinning contest at the National Western Stock Show in Denver. The team finished 2nd overall at the San Antonio Livestock Show and 3rd overall in competition at the Houston Livestock Show. Team members were Denny Burnett, Russell Walter, Brock Graham, Skyla Cockerham, Andrea Stapp, and Erica Montoya. Dr. Tim Ross served as team coach, assisted by Beau Schilling and Brandon Herron.

The **Horse Judging team**, coached by Dr. Jason Turner and graduate assistant Amy Brown, competed at the National Reining Horse Association contest in Oklahoma City in Fall 2006. The team finished 4th overall out of 18 teams with Jacinda Hinkson placing 7th High Individual overall. Other team members included T. J. Arellano, Kali Benson, Davena Norris, and Janae Green

At the Society for Range Management meetings in Reno, Nevada, the **Undergraduate Range Management Exam (URME) team** finished 17th, while the **Range Plant Identification Team** finished 9th overall. Team members were Josh Miller, Estevan Gallegos, Alicia Garcia, and Chase Skaarer.

Students selected for the American Society of Animal Science Scholastic Achievement Awards were Kristi Peters, Kathryn Dickson, Chelsea Felker, Brandi Hayes (Seniors); Davena Norris, Sara Seddon, Maria Martinez-Perez, Clint Roof, Cassidy Burnett (Juniors); Thomas Blanchette, Valerie Detrick, Lindsey Zemanek, Heath Tjaden, Amanda Wilson (Sophomores).

*We are extremely proud of all of our students!*

